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Chapter 1 - Stalking

2021 edit – this was made back in 2019, and is, frankly, quite terrible, even after i edited it, just so you know. the writing is pretty terrible up until somewhere like chapter 10.

Riptide POV

Alright. Don't let her find out your there. That's right, sneaking. I shouldn't be stalking her but that's what I'm doing. I could just approach her, really, but what's the fun in that?
I think my hiding place is quite good. I blend in with the sea when I flash my scales a *little* bit. There, just the right shade. She won't see you, wait for it and pounce.
I wonder why she's here. I thought she was in JMA!
Alright, she's nearly above you...3...2...1...spring!

Tsunami POV
I feel myself being dragged underwater. I try to wriggle free, but the attacker's too strong. I fall into the water with a huge splash. My gills flutter open as I'm drenched in salt water. Goodness, when was the last time I swam in salt water?
Suddenly, I kick my attacker. He let's me go and I flip over. Haha, I kicked him in the place-the-sun-doesn't-shine. He tried to yelp, wow. Didn't he know he would dri-
Wait, that's Riptide! Why was he attacking me?
Squid brain, I flash, *Why are you attacking me?*
I just wanted to give you a surprise, he flashes back.
I snorted and drank a ton of water. Guess I don't learn from other's mistakes.
Let's go up, I flash. I still need to learn more Aquatic.
We burst out of the water and landed on the white sand amongst the beach.
"I thought you were in JMA," he exclaimed.
"I thought you were either in prison, dead or on guard again," I replied.

Riptide snorted. "She wouldn't *kill* me, she has no proof. I was on guard again. But she doesn't trust me anyway, so she has like a hundred backups. I'm pretty sure those backups are supposed to make sure I don't kill someone, though. The only thing she's been doing is starving me."
"Starving you! How?"
"I'm not allowed to hunt, not allowed to buy things, people aren't allowed to sell things, so on."
"Poor you!"
"Well not really, because I mean, I can hunt outside the kingdom. So I'm not exactly almost dead from hunger, more fasting. Besides, she's right to do so bec-"
I cut him off by hitting his snout with my tail.
"Ow!" he complained.
"Softie." I rolled my eyes.
"It hurts!" He continued to whine.
"What do you want?" I grumbled.
He smirked.
I slapped his nose again.
"C'mon! I was just–"
Ugh, fine, whatever.
I pressed my lips to his.

Riptide POV
"I was just-"
Oh wow. Oh wow oh wow oh wow. Oh *wow.* Three moons.
She's kissing me. *Wow.* That is just...
Three moons.
Then...she stopped. I almost sighed in annoyance out loud.
"Will you shut up now?"
Alright, I guess that's fair.
"Where are you going,?"
"Me? I'm visiting Mother, she told me to go."
"Oh. OK."
Not to visit me? I mean, not complaining, I still get to see her.
"Well I'd better go now. Mother expects me before lunch and if I don't arrive on time." said Tsunami.
"You make it sound like you hate her," I chuckled.
Tsunami looked uncomfortable. "I don't hate her. She can be a good mother. I just can't...we have our differences."

"Fair enough. I get that." Me and Webs have always had a kinda awkward relationship. "Anyway, I gotta go too, before I get killed by a guard. See you around, I guess."
Tsunami smiled at me and took off, flying away into the distance, vanishing in the horizon.

Chapter 2 - Lunch at Summer Palace

Tsunami POV
"Tsunami, dear, you look awfully thin... did they feed you properly at that JMA place? I mean, I know you're headmistress, but you seem to be-"
Oh my god. 4523rd times.
"Mother, I'm fine! That's the 4523rd time you've said it!"
"You kept count?" giggled Anemone.
"Very well, Tsunami, dear, if you're sure you don't want extras..."
4524th time, "Now, would you like to hear my new story? It's called *The Mischievous Princess* and it's abo- Auklet! Don't touch that cake! Eat your seaweed first!"
Auklet was still on her main course. Since Mother was distracted, she reached out and sneakily grabbed the cake and had put her jaw open. Before she was busted.
"Not fair! I'm onwly wun! Wuy doo Mone and Sunami got too ate cake?"
"Get to eat," I corrected. Grammar. Normally, I wouldn't care, but this is up to a point where *I am going crazy with the senselessness of this sentence and soon will be brainwashed by it and talk weirdly for the rest of my life.* And I hate those nicknames.
"I'm onwly wun!"
That excuse is out of date. Besides, she's not even one; she's a few months old. And now she's going to be in a sulk for the rest of the day if nobody does anything.
"Look, Auklet, if you finish your seaweed, you can have my cake too, alright!"
"Are you sure, dear? You look thi-"
"4525th time!" announced Anemone.
Mother sighed and shook her head with a smile. "Alright then. Auklet, you get Tsunami's cake if you finish your seaweed."
"Yay!" Auklet immediately cheered up and began scoffing her seaweed. Then burps. *Urgh*, that's *disgusting.* I can't stand her scoffing. "Can I go?" Or shall I be sick at the table?

"Yes dear... oh, that reminds me, come on. I need to say something."
We head to an empty room and stay inside.
"So Tsunami, you may be wondering why I called you back? Well, the reason is," I'll assume that was a rhetorical question, "I have found a suitable match for you!"
The speed of my heart beat doubled. *Thud, thud, THUD* . Surely not...?
"What sort of match?" I asked, numbly inside.
"Of course, someone very high up indeed! And also Auklet's young, lovely, new teacher! And also," she giggled, that's right, *my mother giggled, high-up and important Queen Coral of the Sea giggled, "*your future husband! Meet Whirlpool's brother, Typhoon!"
A blue dragon with skin that looked really sticky came in and glared at me. He didn't look like he liked me anymore than I liked him. A rotten blueberry.
"So? Do you like him?"
"Er.. maybe," I mumbled and ran off to my bedroom.
No. No, no, no. NO, NO.
WHAT HAS HAPPENED?
OH THEEE MOONS, MOTHER, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME AND MY LIFE?!

463 Words!

Chapter 3 - Cheating?

Tsunami POV
Riptide. The only person I can trust in this whole bloody kingdom. I need to find him.
I swam to his cave, but there was no one there. I swam out and bumped into...*Webs*?
What are you doing here? I flashed.
I'm visiting Riptide. He flashes back
He's not home.
I know. I mean...er... of course I don't know! Why would I know?
He's definitely doing something he shouldn't be doing. Guilty.
What are you doing?
Nothing! Look, if you don't tell Riptide, I'll tell you.
What is it?
I...well, when I'm lazy, I come over and stea- I mean, borrow some food from him and...yeah. The queen doesn't let me hunt here anyway.
There is food in the academy. Yes or no?
I was ordered here by the Queen! Do you know why?
I wanted to snarl at him. Instead, I just glared and swam away. I had a feeling it was for the wedding.
Right. Riptide. Where is Riptide?
I actually should have asked Webs, but he makes me to mad to think. Riptide, where are you?
I swam past another cave and-
Wait. That's Riptide's voice. What's he doing in there? I cautiously crouch down and listen. That's his voice and - *another girl's. WHO IS IT?*
"Look Sapphire, I don't want to do this any-"
"DON'T 'LOOK SAPPHIRE' ME! YOU ARE CHEATING ON ME! ADMIT IT!" shrieked the girl.
A hard *clump* and a heavy *thud.* But I hardly hear him. I'm raging in my head. *He has a girl.*
"Shaffire, I deednd-"
Shut up, you lump. YOU LUMP.
Suddenly, despair runs over me. I can't control it. My eyes fill with tears and my vision blurs as I swim away as fast as I can. I don't

want to do anything anymore. It feels like everything's over, gone, stopped. Nothing to live for anymore.
I curl up and cry, tears flooding down my face and vanishing amongst the ocean as I sob. *He didn't love me. He never loved me. I'm just some random girl for him.*
It hurt. Badly.
End it. my nerves urged. *You have nothing to live for anymore.*
But I don't. I hold. The other side of my brain says *stay strong.*
I curl up and cry heavily, tears pouring down my cheeks.
You are nothing to him.

Riptide POV
God, Sapphire. What did I see in you back then? I even told you not to expect anything big, because I wouldn't ever give up on Tsunami!
I wonder where Tsunami is. I want to go to her and cry into her skin.
I'm so tired. I feel numb.
"-YOU CHEATED ON ME! STOP DENYING IT! YOU BLOODY KISSED HER! WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT MEANS? YOUCHEATEDONMEANDYOUWONKTADMITITSOGOTOYOURGIRFRIEND
Wow, she has a lot of breath. What does that mean?
I feel dizzy.
"STOP SITTING IN MY HOUSE AND LOOKING DREAMY- three moons, where's my STICK?"
My eyes roll upwards and I see darkness. Then, I feel one last sharp pain and I'm gone.
It's over.

Chapter 4 - Finally

Tsunami POV
For a moment while I wake up, it seems like I've hit my head. I'd been crying so much it seemed like I was dehydrated. I dizzily and sleepily felt around, and a hand slipped into water.
Where am I?
What am I doing here?
I feel so dizzy. My cheeks are wet.
I get of the beach and slip into the water instinctually. Water moistened my scales and rehydrated.
Suddenly, everything came flooding back to me.
Riptide.
I can still hear his words - *Look, Sapphire I don't want to do this-*
Wait a minute. And another one.
I don't want to do this.
Maybe...
I swim as fast as I can to Riptide.
The cave seems empty now. At least, the girl has gone.
There is red-blue liquid everywhere. Purple, sticky liquid.
Wait. That's... *blood*?
Oh no. Riptide. Oh no. No no no.
I run into the cave.
He's there. He's covered in blood, and there's a wound on his chest.
The sight makes me nauseated but I control myself.
This is what the girl did to him.
Oh no. What do I do?
I dashed out into the water and I look for anyone. I swim around the villa desperately.
No one.
Wait. Webs! Yes! If I find Webs, he might do something...
I run into Riptide caves, and thank goodness, he's there, but he's asleep. And he looks *drunk*.
"Wake up!"
"Hmm?"
Goodness. Stupidity.

"WAKE UP!" I yell in his ear.
Still no response except for a "Hmm?" Oh, three moons. I take a bucket and fill it with water, then splash it over him. *That* wakes him up.
"Tsunami? What's going on?"
"If you'll *wake up,* then Riptide won't *bleed to death*!" I almost yelled.
"What!" Webs shot up. "Where? When? How?"
"His girlfriend just tried to *murder* him!
"How? Why?"
"HE IS BLEEDING TO DEATH! OH MY GOODNESS ARE YOU GOING TO DO ANYTHING, YOU CATFISH?!"
"We have to get him to the hospital!"
Finally.

Riptide POV
What?
What happened?
What's going on?
My brain hurts.
I look... *purple*?
If my memory's not going, I thought I was *blue*.
Why is my chest completely purple?
...
Oh wait... it's white now.
What?
Who's that?
"Riptide, are you OK?"
Me? Riptide? Am I called Riptide then? Oh. I like my name. It sounds nice.
"Hello? Anyone home? Squid brains?"
Squid brains... that was Tsunami?
Memories flooded back. There was still a throbbing pain in my chest and head; something had hit me there. Sapphire. It must have been Sapphire.
"Tsunami?"
"Finally! You woke up! You've been asleep for ages!"
"I'm in the...*hospital*?"
"Yes, you squid brain."
"Oh wait... oh yeah... I did get beaten up by Sapphire... but how did you know?"

"I think I need to start teaching you how to *eavesdrop*?"
"Oh...OK," I still feel dizzy, but comfortably dizzy.
"He needs to sleep now, if you please, your Majesty."
"Right, when can I visit him again?"
"Maybe this evening, at 5?"
"Alright."
"Wait...Tsunami...Don't go..."
"I'll come back to see you later, I promise."
Her lips brushed against mine - and she was gone.
I'm sleepy... time for bed.

Tsunami POV
Here I am, back at Summer Palace, being fussed over by my mother. But this is torture. She's picked a horrible white wedding dress which makes me look like a oversized meringue, and I have a huge frilly train which Anemone is supposed to carry, but more often *steps* on. The wedding cake looks like a rotten blueberry and a puffin standing next to each other. No surprise, Typhoon looks like a rotten blueberry.
Mother is really excited but *THAT MAKES ME WANT TO SCREAM.* It's torture.
And she's also given me another lecture on Riptide. "Dear, his family has been traitor, traitor and more traitor. I know he's your friend, but you can't hang around him that often. Go talk to Typhoon, he's really fun."
I mean, yeah. Totally. Talking to a giant squid with a almond brain. Legitimately. So fun.

❋❋❋

Thank god, it's time to escape and do something fun. Even though it's only 4:30. I CAN'T STAND IT anymore.
"Mother, I need to go and see someone," I announced.
Her eyes narrowed. She was suspicious, obviously, me being the 'outspoken' and the 'I-will-do-whatever-I-like' person I am. "Who?"
"Someone in hospital."
What else can I say?
"Who IS it?"
Riptide, but you don't want to hear that. Uh...Webs?
"Webs."

That is the first lie of many, mother.
"Hmm..." she's staring at me suspiciously, "very well. Go. I guess he's no longer part of Sea Kingdom so I can't say anything."
Thank god for freedom from torture!

Riptide POV

What time is it?
4:38.
Another 22 minutes.
"22 minutes!"
The Nurse gave me a death stare. She's sick to death of me, I guess.
You won't be when Tsunami comes.
Tick, tick, tick, tock.
How long more?
...
4:39.
"21 minutes!"
...I'm sick to death now. I actually also am literally, so it's twice as worse.
When's Tsunami coming?
Knock knock knock.
Another nurse poked her head in. My heart lifted. Tsunami!
"Is she here yet?"
The nurse gave me a peculiar look and spoke to my nurse. "Ma'am, we have a emergency in room 101, can you leave a minute?"
Ok, so not Tsunami.
4:40.
"20 minutes...!"
Who am I speaking to?
Tsunami, when are you coming?
Knock knock knock.
Only Tsunami knocked like that!
"Tsunami!"
Webs came in. He gave me a look, then sat down. Damn, where's Tsunami.
"Looks like you've found someone new, eh?"
I glared daggers at him as I felt my cheeks heat up. Go away, Dad.
4:50.
10 more minutes.

Knock knock knock.
"Ts-er, come in."
Dad gave me another look. Three moons, just go, Dad.
The dragon poked her head in-
"Tsunami! I've been -oh, never mind."
Finally! She's here!
Tsunami grinned. "You've been what?"
Dad grinned as he jumped off his chair and sped out.
"I've not been doing anything." I replied as I blushed again.
"Not pining for me?"
I grinned. "Ask the Nurse. It was 'when's she coming' every minute."
She laughed. "I've finally escaped from my mother! God," her face darkened at the memory, "it really was torture."
"Why, what did she tell you to do?"
"Guess?" she miserably replied.
"I dunno, Tsunami, just tell me!"
"Alright. It was why I went to find you that day. She wants me," she pulled a face, "to marry a 'high official very important' man who, to me, looks like a rotten blueberry and has no brains."
Oh no. That's terrible. Surely...
"Can't be Typhoon?"
"You've hit the nail on the head. Typhoon, the bridegroom."
I groan. "He's even worse than Whirpool! He's the biggest hypocrite in town, and has actually got like a hundred records with the police, though Queen Coral cleared him. I've heard terrible things about him, like-"
"Don't make me feel more terrible."
"Well, I dunno, a, you won't actually meet him that often because you'll be in JMA, b, you'll be rich, c, your mother will be happy, and, er, well, nothing else, I guess."
"But I hate him! He's annoying and arrogant and as you said, hypocritical and he's some important aristocracy who always act like they're top and he always sucks up to the Queen! And I don't like him! I like you!"
Oh no, a full scale tantrum, dive under the be-wait a moment. She said *what*?
"What?"
She gave me a dagger glare.
"Never mind, just tell me how to murder Typhoon already."
"No I mean, I- I, I well, I-"

"Just get on with it already."
If you stop smirking. Right.
"Well, I, I l-l-like you too," I stammered.
I'm cringing, this is really embarrassing.
Tsunami's coming over now, and she-
Again! She kissed me!
We kiss for about a minute before she breaks away.
"Hopefully Mother and Typhoon doesn't kill us," she grins.
I grin back. "Hey, Tsunami, when you have time..."
"Yeah?"
"You wanna check out my secret cave?"
She kissed me again. I'm assuming that means yes.
Looks like my woes are over.

Chapter 5 - Typhoon is a cute blue RainWing

Tsunami POV
Urgh. More wedding. URGH.
I want whack that fake smile off Typhoon's face. He's such a hypocrite.
Riptide comes out of hospital tomorrow.
It's still a week till the wedding, so I'm not bothering yet. It's a wonder we have any guests. Probably only people like Moray.
The wedding cake has been 'improved'. It now looks like a huge squid with rotten blueberries on top. I do *not* look like that. I am much more better looking, thank you. Even Typhoon looks better than that. This is an insult to SeaWings.
Who made the cake? I must remember to punish them.
Anemone sprinted by and flashed... *what!*
She giggled, *Do it,* she flashed.
Fine. Here comes Typhoon.
You are a cute blue RainWing!
Run, now, Tsunami. For your own good.

Riptide POV
I think the Nurse has finally cracked. She rushed out sobbing a minute ago. Can't say I'm sorry.
Poor Tsunami, she's got to put up with Coral's fussing for the wedding. And for *Typhoon's* wedding.
In a week Typhoon will expect his talons to be cut by Tsunami and his fish to be ready on his table precisely punctually. Tsunami has no sense of time. Poor her.
The nurse has come back, but she looks like she's about to run. I think I might have went to far.

Tsunami POV
I swim away as fast as I can. I've been excused by Mother from this *boring* wedding preparation. She thinks I'm going to visit some 'high-up officer' who's ill. Wrong. I'm not. I've just heard that Clay,

Peril and Sunny have dropped by. I need a therapist so I can a) ask them about how boyfriends are supposed to behave and b) ask them how to STAND THIS STUPID WEDDING. I'm definitely going to be mad when it's over. They (mother and co.) could have at least chosen a not so stupid dress.
Right. They said they'd be on that island with the brown-ball trees. What scavengers call 'coconuts'.
"Hi," said Clay, bopping open a 'coconut'. He always has to chew something. Of course. And Sunny is climbing trees. I can't see the point of it.
"Good to see you guys, mother's driving me CRAZY."
"What's she done now?"
"She's trying to organise a WEDDING with Whirlpool's BROTHER."
"I have no idea who Whirlpool and his brother are, but they sound bad. Were they the people who Clay said liked Starflight reciting boring stuff?" Peril asked.
"Bad. Bad. BAD. Worse than Starflight and all 'high up'."
"Ok, yeah. I get it."
"Anyway, I need help, guys. I need to get out of this wedding. I need a way to kill him!"
"And you want us to hide the evidence? No problem. This is my line!" Peril brandished her claws.
Clay rubbed his forehead in a very *why-do-I-like-her* way. Or, so I interpreted.
"Peril, stop it. We're not murdering anyone."
"Yes we are!" I immediately corrected.
Clay sighed. "We shouldn't."
"Why not?"
"Becuase– oh, never mind," He threw a coconut at me, then looked remorseful for wasting a perfectly good coconut. I chuckled.

⁂

After an hour, I swim back to summer palace through a tunnel. Suddenly, I hear a *clang* and I freeze.
It came again... *clang...*
Suddenly, someone — or something pounces on me. I know it can't be Whirlpool this time, because he's dead.
So who is it?
I fight back. This someone — some*thing* doesn't have armour. But as

I scratch his/her/its arm, I grab a knife and attempt to disarm. After a struggle, I manage to grab the knife, stab the person once and swim away as fast as I can.
I swim to the first place I can think of, which happens to be the hospital. Inside, I dash to Riptide's ward, despite the nurses' screeching about blood and injury and making a mess on the floor.

"Riptide?"

Riptide looked up and changed his gloomy face to a more positive face. That is, until he saw me.

"What's wrong?" Riptide requested gently.

"Someone just tried to murder me."

Chapter 6 - TODAY?!

Note, my wedding vocabulary is very limited so correct me if I get something called wrong, enjoy the part :D
Tsunami POV

The same person. The same knife. The stab.

"Die, princess!"

I swim away as fast as I can, but the dragon quickly catches up.

"Too slow, princess!"

Then Riptide's face swims into view, confused, terrified. The scene is the hospital ward.

"Someone tried to kill you? We need to tell your mother!"

Then Coral.

"Goodness me, it must be one of your other pursuers! We must marry you to Typhoon at once!"

"Mother–"

"It must be Riptide! He always stared at you like that*! Yes...we should outlaw him from all the cities!"*

"Mother, please!"

Riptide again, but he lies on the floor, dead, eyes closed.

Then Coral, a knife into her chest, blood pouring everywhere.

Corpses flashing. Auklet. Anemone. Clay. Starflight. All with a knife in their chest, the same knife.

"Nooo! Please!" A hooded dragon slowly pushing his knife into Sunny.

"Stop it! STOP IT!" I cry. The dragon looks at me, with a look of pure evil on their face...her face?

The hood falls, and I glimpse a familiar female's face. Do I know her?

A knife flies towards me. It glints blue. Must be a sapphire stone.

Wait...Sapphire? Why does that seem connected?

The knife continues its journey.

Then...darkness.

"Tsunami! Guess what day it is?"

My mother's voice breaks through my peaceful sleep. At least, it seems peaceful, but I distantly remember a nightmare. Flashes of murdered corpses. I shudder and push it into my *think about it later* section of my memory.

"Tsunami! Wake up!" I'm tempted to scream and swear at my mother as I'd rather stay in the world of dreams, or even, nightmares, but obviously, it's my mother. But that doesn't stop me from muttering reproachfully, "The day for you to shut up and let me dream in peace."

"Oh, you're going to be so excited!"

Yes, indeed. I am always excited by your news. I wonder if it's a new book being published? Yay! How about-

"It's the wedding day!"

I froze and slowly turned to face her, still in my bed.
"I know, Tsunami, sweetheart, you're so excited about this day—"
Excited? I try my best to not throw a tantrum at the outrageous description.
"—but you're gonna need to calm down for a moment. You've got a lot to prepare for! Come on!"
I glare at her, but inside I was terrified. Living with Typhoon could even mean being poisoned by him; I was sure he hated me enough.
"But I thought I had one more week?"

"Surprise! I thought you'd like to marry him a week earlier!" Coral winked at me. Ugh, mother, what have you done? This life isn't even mine anymore.
"C'mon, get ready, we need to arrive soon!"
A few hours later I was at the wedding place, glum. I'd done everything I could to postpone the wedding; be sick, tear my wedding dress 'accidentally' and trip over the cake (thank goodness), but Coral was determined for me to get married today.
"C'mon, Tsunami, don't be scared, you can do this!"
Tsunami, don't be scared. What do you think I should be then? Huh? You've just planned to marry me to my worst enemy's brother who also happens to be a utter psychopath and now I'm meant to not be scared or angry! What the hell should I feel then? Happy?
I walked down the aisle glumly. My uncle Shark *escorted* me to the altar, like a prisoner. I stood next to Typhoon while the officiant droned on.
"Do you, Typhoon, take Tsunami to be your bride?"
"I do." His voice was full of hatred, yet he somehow spat the words out.
"And do you, Tsunami, take Typhoon as your husband?"
I stared down. "I— well—"
"Of course she does, don't you, sweetheart?" came Coral's voice.
"She will. She will take the husband." hissed Shark.
"Come on, woman," growled Typhoon.
"I..."

Chapter 7 - Take the husband!

Tsunami POV

What do I say?
"I...I...I,"
No. I don't want to. No. No.
"I...I can't."

There is silence.

Then gasps of shock come from around the guests. I glance around. My mother is still with shock, mouth open and staring at me with horror. Shark is glaring at me furiously. I slowly take a step away from Typhoon.

Shark grabs me and drags me away, back in the palace. My mother follows, adding to the crowd, "I'm afraid my daughter is a bit under the weather today! So sorry, so sorry, don't worry, we'll talk to her, she'll be back when–"

"Her temperament sweetens." growled Shark. We reach the palace and Shark flings me onto the floor. It hurts, but I bite my lip.

"Tsunami, sweetheart–" my mother began, but then stopped, clearly unsure how to proceed.

Shark growled. "That esteemed young gentleman payed a fortune in dowry for your hand in marriage! Do you know how valuable their support is?"

Anger rises in me.

"Dowry? Support? So I'm just a bargaining tool now, am I?"

"You are a princess, and you shall behave like such by marrying a noble suitor chosen by your mother, the queen!"

"Precisely!" I yell. "I'm a princess, not a product to be sold in

exchange for something, and if I'm not treated better, I shall leave this kingdom forever! The only reason I'm here is because I'm passing by, so I decided to spend some time with my siblings! But now, I can't even visit my family without being forced into marriage!"

"Some would say it's your job to produce heirs, which it is! We've given you free rein for far too long! We gave you FOUR days to prepare, even though the wedding has been ready for FOUR YEARS! You cannot ask for more!"

I roar. Guards regard me with terror and sprint out of the room until only me, my mother and my uncle are still in the room.

"Tsunami," my mother begins, but I've lost my temper completely.

"No!" I roar. "I will NOT be treated like a slave! That's how you're treating me like!"

"Tsunami, I'm sure you'll see–"

"I will see NOTHING, because I'm LEAVING! Do you understand? I renounce my role as princess and renounce my part as the royal family!"

Shark and Coral both gasp.

"Tsunami! Wait!"

Shark's harsh tones rise over my mothers. "You shall not leave nor renounce your claim to anything! Guards, seize her!"

Guards all regard me with terror as I sprint to the exit. Finally, a huge, brawny guard grabs me off track. I bite his paw and he shrieks. All the other guards immediately bolt and I sprint out into the water, swimming away. My life as a princess in the palace was over. I swam away, vowing to never return again, not if everyone kneeled and begged me to.

Suddenly, a flash in the shadows.

The glint of a sapphire knife.

Riptide POV

The nurses are gone. The ward is gone. The white walls are gone. The white, clean bed is gone. I'm finally out of hospital. But strangely, I don't feel like I expected.

My house looks exactly the same, but yet something seems to be wrong. I feel as if I'm being...watched?

Suddenly, I see a flash of blue in the corner of my eye.

A sapphire blade.

Chapter 8 - Escape

Riptide POV

The knife flies at me.

I duck.

"Come out, whoever you are!" I called out, feeling terrified.

"Why should I do that?"

Why is that voice so...familiar?

"Coward," I sneered.

The other dragon made no reply as I looked around anxiously. The knife is gone for now, but I have no idea where it went.

"Using underhand ways because you know you can't defeat the dragons without sneaking around," I continued, "just hoping that the healers won't find the dragon. Why are you even doing this?"

I cautiously move towards the exit as there is a short silence. Then–

"Why should I tell you?"

I leap back from the door, where the voice seems to have come from. The voice begins to laugh.

"Who's the coward now?"

I glare at the door. Then I step towards it and fling it open.

There is nobody there.

"Still you, since I'm the one looking for you instead of hiding in the shadows, shivering with fright."

No response. I pace around, waiting.

Silence.

"Hello? Are you still there?"

Silence.

I cautiously swim out. Something glinted.

I turned. The blade again.

Hiding again. You see? I then turned and swam away, as fast as I could.

The chase was on.

Tsunami POV

I swim away, as fast as I can. My life in sea kingdom is finished.

Or, rather, mostly finished.

I hesitate as I think of Riptide. His handsome face. His–

NOW'S NOT THE TIME, IDIOT!

I flinch and continue swimming. The only thing I can do now is fly back to the academy.

I began flying southwest.

1k views yay

(I know this is rubbish compared to most wattpad books but pls just let me have my moment here, and that views dont matter bc this book has like no votes but *shrug* this chapter will probably be deleted later)

Thanks to:

@ClaireTheAlpha
@StarrisertheSkywing9
@Dragonfire310k
@PrincessStarlight18

For the supportive comments, I appreciate it!

Chapter 9 - Murder in the library

Riptide POV

Tsunami's gone.

The news has been all over the kingdom. *The princess renounced her role! The princess refused the husband! The princes did this, did that, did blah blah blah!* It's a steady source of gossip.

She's gone and she's not coming back, because what other reason would she come back for?

I sigh and curl up on my bed. Then I think of something and wander to the hospital, going into the ward I used to be in. None of the nurses were there. I wandered up to the hospital chair. I could smell Tsunami's scent on it. Fresh lake water.

I curl up on the hospital bed. Only a few days ago, Tsunami was there, laughing, talking, whispering, mo–

"Sir, what are you doing here?" A cross looking nurse strode in. "The hospital is closed."

I give a resigned sigh and swam back home.

Tsunami's gone.

Tsunami POV

I fly continuously southwest, until I reach the place where Riptide stalked me. Smiling slightly, I flap down for a rest.

God, my belly aches. I need lunch.

I went into the ocean and snatched up a unsuspecting fish. Mm, delicious.

Suddenly, I feel sick. I fly back up to the surface as fast as I can. Bad idea. Now I feel even worse.

I lurch around. Finally, I empty the entire contents of my stomach out.

What the hell? Something I ate?

I sighed. Probably a poisonous fish. I dismissed the thought and flew on, Little did I know I wasn't alone...

Chapter 10 - Detective Tsunami?

Tsunami POV

I've arrived at JMA, but I now feel like I shouldn't have. I keep throwing up all over the place. I can't eat anything but fruits. I feel constantly exhausted, and I've done nothing but lie down.

"Is there anything we can do?" Clay asked.

"I'm not on my deathbed," I snapped. "I don't need people running around attending me.

"Sure you don't." Glory rolled her eyes. "So in the end, you weren't the perfect queen after all. Well, perhaps you might do headmistress better. They both need the same qualities: bossiness."

"Watch it, sloth face," I snarled. "I'm going to kick the hell out of you as soon as I can."

"I don't think you can." Glory smirked. "Do you know how much weight you've put on? You look almost as if you're pregnant. No; fatter."

I snarl at her a bit more before my energy runs out again and I lay my head down. My friends glanced at each other, shrugged at my behaviour and slowly trickled out, after a few minutes of talking. I sigh and lay my head back.

Suddenly, a white bird leapt through the window. A letter was tied to his feet. Maybe he was my next meal.

I pulled out the letter, then gaped at the contents.

Princess Tsunami,

An urgent matter has happened in the Sea Kingdom. We request your

presence at once.

A blind NightWing who claims that he is from the JMA visiting the Sea Kingdom library has been targeted. He is currently in a critical situation and we need your help.

Regards,

Coral, Queen of SeaWings

Fin, Head Police of SeaWing city

Fish, Mayor of SeaWing city

For a moment, it felt like a ruse to get me back into the kingdom.

But then I realised Starflight had been in Sea Kingdom. Starflight wasn't in JMA. To make sure, I attempted to get up. I immediately felt dizzy but I determinedly continued.

"Hey, Clay! Is Starflight back from Sea Kingdom?"

Clay looked at me for a moment. Then he stared at something on my...shoulder? What was on my...oh.

"Yes, yes, you can eat the bird, now, is Starflight back?"

Clay pounced. I ducked and the bird squawked angrily. On second thoughts, maybe it was a messenger bird. It was a cormant after all.

Too late. Clay caught the bird and chomped, spraying feathers everywhere.

"I own ink he ba," Clay chewed.

"Um, what?"

Clay finished the bird and stared at me wistfully. "You don't have another one, do you?"

"Clay!"

"Oh, alright. I don't think he's back yet. Do I get another bird now?"

I ignored him and leapt out of a window. Yes, a more graceful exit could have been done, but Starflight was in danger. I had to go.

Chapter 11 - You're PREGNANT?

Sorry nu update for long had writers block and also was working on my other novel which i just posted, pls check it out it's called "dragonriders of ostea" even tho there's only one chapter atm lol anyway on with the chapter

Tsunami POV

I flew back towards Sea Kingdom, stopping a few times to...excrete liquid.

What the hell was wrong with me?

I finally reached the Sea Kingdom, only to crash into the Summer Palace and fall into the sea with a splash, tumbling through open windows and onto someone. Then the someone wriggled out, and gave a happy exclamation.

"Sunameeee!"

"Auklet!" I exclaimed and picked up the little dragon, and placed her back on the bed. "Sorry 'bout that."

Auklet blinked, then lost interest in me and continued to – quite violently – bash her toys around. I proceeded to fly back out of the window and to the hospital. I crashed into the reception. The receptionist gave me a disgusted look, but I ignored him and asked, "Where's Starflight?"

The receptionist gave a snobbish sniff. "That NightWing who stupidly got himself stabbed?" I growled, and grabbed the receptionist by the neck and shook him. "Where – is – he?" I

snarled. The receptionist whimpered. "Into the emergency section, forward until you reach double doors, first room on the left."

"Thank you," I dropped him onto his desk. He immediately sprang back and hid behind it. Coward. I went to Starflight's room, but before I could get there I collapsed onto the floor with pain. Nurses flocked around me with panicked whisper. Then I passed out with exhaustion.

I woke up, a long time later. The nurses were excitedly whispering now. I was laying on a bed, and I slightly lifted my head. There was...a splatter of blood around me?

Then a nurse came over, smiling. "Congratulations, miss! Six fine eggs! They should hatch in about 5 weeks."

"WHAT?" I roared. Nurses picked themselves up and fled. Only a few stayed, whimpering.

"You were...pregnant, miss," the one holding the egg announced tentatively.

"But how?"

"You see, when a girl dragon and a boy dragon love each other very–"

"No, not that!" I waved her away impatiently.

I hadn't been near a SeaWing male for over a week because I couldn't visit Riptide, and there was no one else! Ugh. I guess that was something to ponder about later.

Suddenly, a drowsy feeling began entering my brain. It felt like it was looking for something, pulling through my memories.

Wait a minute, was my memory being wiped for some reason?

Oh no oh no. *Remember.* I desperately clung on to my memories but it was too late. My brain throbbed and suddenly I felt a white feeling wash through me.

The eggs! Me and Riptide's eggs!

...oh. They were safe. There was something I didn't seem to remember about them, but I wasn't sure what. Probably wasn't important.

"Wait. Why was I out?"

"The eggs seem larger than usual." The nurse proclaimed. "Normally it takes one days for royal dragons to give birth. I believe these eggs are overdue–"

I snatched the eggs and sprinted off. Starflight would have to wait. It was time to find Riptide.

Riptide POV

I paced around my house one more time and then sighed, curling around the bed. Suddenly, the front door fell apart, and Tsunami strode in, clearly agitated.

"Tsunami!" I got up and began to run towards her.

She pushed me away and dumped a parcel on my table and pulled off the cloth on it, revealing...eggs?

"This is all your fault!" Tsunami declared.

Eggs? They couldn't be mine. Me and Tsunami hadn't even met for ages.

"What? Are you sure those are mine? They can't be! We–"

Tsunami threw a bowl at me, which exploded. I winced. My brain began throbbing; looks like the bowl hit my brain. The eggs couldn't be mine, though.

What are you thinking? A oily voice entered my brain, one that didn't sound like mine. *Of course they're yours.*

No, they weren't. They definitely...weren't? Wait a minute, what was I thinking? Of course they were.

"Wow, you're grumpy."

Tsunami glared at me. "Yes, yes, whatever. You're taking care of them, whoever's eggs they are; they're probably not even mine. I need to do something important."

"Wait–!"

But she was already gone.

Looks like I'm in trouble.

edit: im back here to edit this chapter, ive changed it so riptide and tsunami were brainwashed/enchanted etc to forget about the fact they didn't have eggs

Chapter 12

Yes, okay, im a procrastincator etc etc etc (how do i spell that)

but don't kill me yet! i literally just lost all inspiration for this story – as in i have no idea what happens next either and i dont know how to continue. i should just never have made tsunami have cubs in the first place but what can i say? it seemd fine at that time.

anyway, i still have no idea whats happening, so im winging it. if this is terrible tell me; i can stand it :-: i just finished this today anyway

Tsunami POV

I had no idea what I was doing.

I mean, I'm sure proper detectives could pull up something immediately. But all I could see was dark NightWing blood everywhere and a bunch of blood-soaked books.

What am I supposed to do with that?

Okay, take a deep breath and stop panicking.

I have no idea why I was supposed to do this. Probably just an excuse to get me back into Sea Kingdom.

Ugh.

"I can't figure anything out," I announced to the guards and stomped out. I swam to the hospital to visit Starflight again.

"Starflight?"

"Tsunami?" Starflight groaned. "What happened? Where am I?"

"You're in Sea Kingdom, remember? You were looting the library."

Starflight sat up suddenly. "The sapphire knife!"

"Uh...what sapphire knife?"

Starflight turned away and muttered something inaudible. All I heard was "Fatespeaker was right," and a bunch of other nonsense.

"Stop it. How was Fatespeaker right? What did she do?"

Starflight sighed. "She predicted something, and this time it came true."

"Which is?"

"That a SeaWing with a sapphire knife will eat up the kingdom inside and mercilessly slaughter until she gets her goal."

"And what, did Fatespeaker say, is its goal?" I doubtfully retorted.

"Riptide."

...oh.

Riptide POV

Eggs are warm; check. Eggs have food if they crack without me; check. Eggs aren't cracking immediately; check. Eggs are protected by huge system; check. There are still six eggs; check. I can finally have a rest from preparing this and that for the eggs. I collapsed onto the coach utterly tired.

I went to grab some food from the kitchen. Oysters and salmon; yum. My fridge's nearly empty, time to stock up, but first, time to stuff my face until my stomach hurts. The eggs will be fine for one moment. I picked up a random scroll and began reading, then got bored and began doodling randomly on a blank scroll with squid ink. After my snack and rest I come back to the eggs, just to double check.

There's a sudden bang and someone leaps out of the building.

"Hey! Stop!" I yelled.

But they/he/she/it's already gone. I looked around, but there was no one around the building.

I came back to the eggs with a growing dread in my stomach. The eggs. I need to count them.

One, two, three, four, five...

Wait a minute. There were six!

I hastily searched for the egg.

No egg.

I'm dead, Tsunami's going to kill me.

ill end here today bc i can't think of anything else ;—;

; ;

Chapter 13

no stupid words this time, but thanks for the comments :D hopefully my writing has improved though

Tsunami POV

"You've moped for two days now, c'mon."

"The egg's gone," I lay on the floor facing the ceiling. "I had one job and I failed."

"I mean, I can't argue with that."

"Starflight!" I snapped. "There are some times where you're supposed to *contradict* your friends, not agree with them!"

"But you did kind of give your eggs to your irresponsible, immature, untolera–"

I threw a fish and him. Headshot. The fish somehow landed in his mouth and he choked.

"I'm leaving," I announced and did as I said, heading out of the hospital. The nurses all immediately moved out of my way. I guess I have a reputation here now.

Since I had nowhere to go, I swam towards Riptide's house and entered.

"Riptide?" I called. "Hello?"

There was no sound.

"Riptide, stop fooling around!" I yelled. "Where are the eggs!"

No sound. I cautiously entered and walked to where the eggs were.

Oh, no.

The eggs were all gone. Every single one of them, not just one.

I frantically looked around. Suddenly, a scrap of paper caught my attention.

I grabbed the scroll and read it.

If you want your stupid illegitimate eggs back, as well as Riptide, contact me at 12 o'clock today in the Stadium of Seacity. We can hold an exchange.

– Sapphire

Riptide was gone, and being held by the "Sapphire" for a ransom. So were the eggs.

Guess Fatespeaker was right.

⁂⁂⁂⁂⁂⁂⁂⁂⁂⁂⁂⁂⁂⁂

One more minute. The clock ticked. I tensed. Someone moved.

"Come out," I growled.

Silence for a moment. Then.

A dragon stepped out. However, his/her/it's face was covered by a blue veil.

"Sapphire, I presume," I snarled. "Let Riptide go this instant or I'll claw your head off."

"Oh no," it, who seemed to be a she purred, "I can't do that."

Rage rose up in me and I leapt at her, but the dragon simply lifted her paw and I went flying back. She gave a high pitched laugh.

"Aha, it works. That stupid SandWing from the Talons of Power wasn't lying."

I limped around her, glaring, until she put her paw down. I

immediately charged again, getting close enough to claw her as soon as my claw reached her flesh I went flying backwards again, this time, smashing onto the ground helplessly and collapsing. There was a resounding crash as both my legs and wings that I landed on were stabbed by overwhelming pain.

I gritted my teeth. "What do you want?"

She smiled wickedly. "You."

Um, what? "Excuse me?"

"Yes, you heard me right. You."

I finally realised what she meant as she smiled cruelly at me.

"You want me in your prison in exchange for my eggs and Riptide to be let out safely?"

The dragon snorted, her smile turning into a sneer. "I have no interest in your nonmarital fools, nor your idiot boyfriend. I don't want them; they have no value to me."

"And if I don't agree?"

"Then." She sneered harder again. "I will continue until not a single dragon you care about is alive."

Fine. "Promise me that if you take me, no one I care about will be hurt in anyway."

"Of course. I'll put all the eggs back where they were, as well as Riptide." Her sneer turned gleeful and she gestured. There was a scuffling noise. A SeaWing carrying a tray came out. There were a big pile of blue rocks on the tray...

...Oh. No. They were eggs. My eggs! What were they doing?

I tried to leap forward, panic filling me, but a SeaWing had already sneaked up from behind me and bound me. "Don't move or make a sound, you, or I'll snap your neck."

"Wait, Riptide! What about Riptide?"

Sapphire laughed. "Did you really think I would let him go after he betrayed me like that?"

I struggled frantically. My eggs were going to be destroyed. Finally, I felt a sudden sharp stab in my leg. I examined it; a needle was stuck in it. I began feeling dizzy, then collapsed on the ground, vision going blurry. So blurry that eventually only a mess of colours remained.

"Take her away," I faintly heard. "To the Headquarters. I'll deal with her tomorrow morning." A giggle. "Oh, I am going to have so much fun while I gouge out her eyes."

It was the last thing I heard before everything went black and I lost my consciousness.

btw i just went onto the wof wiki and read some random parts bc i haven't read the full series, but i'd say this is set after darkstalker turns into peacemaker. also: is vulture dead and is the talon of peace gone? idk, may have messed up but whatever hope you liked that chatper

AUTHORS NOTE

this is not an update.

i just wanted to say, i think im going to re edit all of the earlier chapters I did before i was about to quit

updates are coming though, dont worry about that. i just wanted to alert everyone because there may be minor changes in some parts of the storyline, and that the characters might mention something that doesnt make sense. that'll be because the earlier chapters have been updated. the main storyline is going to stay the same though. i just need to fix some plotholes and things that don't make sense.

if there's any questions about something that a character has said, just comment, i'll try to answer asap

bye

Chapter 14 - Escape from Sapphire

Tsunami POV

I woke up in a prison.

Well, you probably couldn't even call it a prison; it was just a stone cube, really. There wasn't even a door; at least not a visible one. Maybe there was a hidden one.

I looked around for escapes, which didn't seem to exist, obviously, in a hollow stone cube with nothing.

Suddenly, a part in the stone turned on its hinges.

Called it, a secret hidden door.

Sapphire stepped in – at least I assume it was Sapphire, she still had the veil – and smirked at me. "I don't know what you were thinking when you agreed to come. What did you think I wanted to do, use you for ransom?"

I glared at her and opened my mouth. Only then did I find that I was gagged and chained.

Sapphire chuckled. "You have no idea what I'm going to do with you, so I'll get to doing. Oh, this is going to be fun!"

She pulled out a sharp, five-ridged narwhale spear and held it towards me. I looked at it in alarm. The spear gleamed with sharpness and magic.

"Having second thoughts about saving your brats instead of yourself when you had the chance? Well, it's too late. I'm going to show you what pain really is."

She held the narwhale spear and pointed it at me. I growled as she

edged it closer, to where my wings met my body. She pushed it towards it.

The point pierced.

I tried to scream, but my screams were muffled in the gag.

Pain. Pain like I've never felt before. Agony. A burning sensation. I tried to scream again. My vision went dark.

I could feel my muscles being ripped and torn into pieces. My screaming became a instinct and everything faded away except for the pain.

Then, the pain faded slightly. Only slightly enough for me to regain my senses. My vision was blurry and kept disorting, everything was spinning around me, but at least I *could* sense.

"I'm sorry, but none of that, SeaWing."

"You promised me I could do what I wanted to do with her!"

"We promised that you could, as long as you kept her alive. We need her for...further uses."

"But you *promised*! Besides, it's not anything that's going to murder her, it's just a little bit of torture with a five-ridged spear that's enchanted to inflict as much pain as possible..."

"Yes, of course, that's totally not going to kill anyone." Sapphire's companion's sarcastic voice drifted over, and even in my half dead state I almost chuckled. I would have if I wasn't still trying to stop screaming into my gag. Very unsuccessfully.

"We can't take any risks; his Lordship will kill us if we kill her. We need her to use against Coral."

Which probably wouldn't work, thinking about the bad terms I had left with my mother. And who was this Lordship?

Sapphire gave a frustrated huff. "Fine. But I get to do what I want afterwards."

"Of course."

Suddenly, another voice sounded. "Actually, that will not be happening."

Why did that voice sound so familiar? Was it someone I knew?

My vision had become clearer, even though everything was still blurry. The wound was no longer agonisingly painful like a hundred knifes carving into my brain as it had been, but as I turned to look at it, I could see blood was still pouring out, like a waterfall from a underground lake. Purple-ish blood covered the floor and leaked everywhere.

I knew I was close to fainting again. Why was I fainting all the time these days? I bit my lip to stop myself from fainting and concentrated on the noises again.

There were now screams and yells as well as clangs of weapons. Another voice came, this time next to me.

"Sister! Oh no. Oh no oh no."

It was Turtle!

"Turtle? What are you doing here?"

"Helping you escape! Give me a moment!"

There was a muttering of something and suddenly the pain receded. I blinked as everything went precisely clear again.

I stood up, finding my legs were still working properly. I peered underneath my wing.

Nothing was there anymore, except a blood stain, but nothing came out.

"Thanks."

"No problem." Turtle appeared in my vision and pulled at me hurriedly.

"You shouldn't have come here!" I called to him, as he pulled me frantically out of the room through the secret door – which had actually been smashed so that there was only a hole now. Red, blood stained stone were shattered all over the floor. I stepped cautiously over it and followed Turtle. "You should have stayed in JMA!"

"Sorry," Turtle muttered as he pulled me away from the room. "Mother called me."

I looked up to see dead bodies on the floor of SeaWing soldiers everywhere. One lunged for me. I growled and pushed him away. Suddenly, Shark was there and ripped him apart.

"Thanks," I said in surprise. Shark had always hated me till now. Shark grunted and vanished back into the battle, but now that the closest SeaWing had been killed, my view was now no longer blocked. I froze in horror as I regarded the destruction and deaths. A flash of The War appeared. Suddenly, I was back regarding a battle in the MudWing kingdom. People lay dead everywhere.

A flash of Coral murdering Tortoise.

A flash of my father. Gill. His neck snapping underneath my claws.

"Tsunami, we've got to go!" Turtle pulled me.

Suddenly I remembered something ."Riptide! Where's Riptide? We need to rescue–"

"We've already rescued him, and the eggs too," Turtle reassured me. "He's been driving the entire castle crazy by ranting at absolutely everyone about not rescuing you first." I gave a sigh of relief. Suddenly, another SeaWing lunged. I grabbed his paw and flung him at the battle and sprinted after Turtle and into the Main Hall I had been yesterday to save Riptide and the eggs.

"We're nearly there! C'mon!" Turtle pulled me out of the hall and into the ocean, swimming away. I gave a sigh of relief.

We were all free; me, my eggs and Riptide. Everyone was safe.

And I was going to return to Riptide.

Riptide POV

"It's been an hour! Don't tell me to keep waiting!" I yelled at the guard escorting me. He gave me a terrified look. "We need to go and see if she's safe!"

I leapt out of the door.

"Wait! But Her Majesty said–"

I turned and growled at him. "I don't care! Tsunami could be dying!"

Just at that moment, Tsunami turned up.

"Finally!" I ran at Tsunami and hugged her. "Thank the moons," I gave a sigh of relief. The stress and anger of the hours leaked out as I embraced her. "I thought you were dead. Don't ever do that again, not even to save me. Save yourself first." I sternly glared at her. "You're the most important. Not me. More people need you than me."

She didn't reply, simply raised her head to mine. I needed no more encouragement and kissed her; she tasted so sweet. I relaxed in the luxury until–

"*Ahem.*"

We pulled apart rapidly. I turned to see Coral glaring at both of us. Coral then ran forward and hugged Tsunami, her anger melting away into relief.

"Thank goodness," She wept into Tsunami's neck. "I thought you were dead."

"Mother," Tsunami looked guiltily at me and then back at Coral. "I–"

"You don't need to explain. You're alive, that's what's important." Coral pulled back and smiled at Tsunami. "I might not always approve of your decisions, but Tsunami, you're my daughter and I love you. We may have our differences, but no matter what, I'm

your mother and I'll always support you no matter what."

Tsunami widened her eyes. "Those that mean...?"

Coral beamed. "Yes." Then she turned to me, looking at me sternly. *Oh, that's why Tsunami's so irritated when I look at her like that. Fair enough.*
"You. You joined another force while we were at war and tricked my daughter again and again, but when the Summer Palace was burning, you still helped. I guess for that, I must thank you."

I looked at her, uncertain. Coral sighed. "I guess for that bravery, you deserve my daughter. You've proved you're worth it. However, if you ever trick or hurt her again-" Coral glared at me "I will not only rip out every organ you have, I will also force you to swallow all your organs and then snap your neck."

Wow, that was graphic. And probably not possible; how could I swallow organs without digestive organs?

Of course, I didn't say that.

"Thank you, your Majesty." I bowed. Coral nodded and left with guards and servants, leaving me and Tsunami alone.

Tsunami smiled at me.

"You know, we haven't done much since our first date. You pretty much got injured immediately and had to live in the hospital."

"Then, what do you say to going for a fly?" I smiled at her.

"Let's go."

She flapped her wings, entered the sea and then erupted out of the ocean. I followed and we smiled at each other.

Nothing mattered, as long as we had each other.

wow this is actually one of the longest chapters ive done...definetly the longest in this book. i really enjoyed writing this, hope you enjoyed reading it! the next chapter will

be a date because i realised i haven't actually included to much ripnami content :D until then, bye bye!

Chapter 15 - Second date

Tsunami POV

We flew away from the palace and into the wilder parts of the sea, untouched by dragons. Riptide dived from the air and into the sea. I followed and dived. Then opened my mouth to gasp. Then swallowed too much water so I had to leap out and cough out all the water. I dived back in, with Riptide poking his head out and chuckling. I glared at him.

But there was actually a lot to gasp at. Coral grew everywhere. Rainbow pieces of sea plants that waved amongst the water gently. The light blue water was like a crystal glass display shelf for all of the swaying life. Fish darted everywhere, blending in with the colourful coral. Starfish clung onto the rocks amongst the sandy ground. Stingrays floated along and jellyfish floated like pink balloons. Animals I didn't even recognise scuttled and leaped and wiggled forward.

I looked over at Riptide in surprise. He smiled at me.

We swam for a long distance amongst the coral with fish darting around us in curiosity, not having met dragons before. A turtle swam past, chasing a jellyfish. Riptide then pulled me onto the shore of an island.

"This was all planned, wasn't it?" I snorted at him. He ignored me. I followed him into the shade of the trees. Candles sat in the middle and the lights flickered.

"I never pegged you for a romantic," I teased. Riptide sheepishly grinned. "This is just a rest station, not a super cliché dinner, just in case you were thinking about it."

Around half an hour of chatting later, we both dived again and swam for a while more north. The coral eventually vanished into nothing, the sea grew colder and the fish changed into narwhals,

orcas and penguins. Finally we climbed out again. Penguins dived to silver fish

"We're at the border of the kingdom of sky," Riptide told me. "So we can't swim anymore."

"It's fine," I sighed and lay back on the sand, gazing at the sunset. Shades of pink, yellow, red, blue, black and purple filled the sky. Me and Riptide lay gazing until the sun vanished into where the clear, blue sea met with the horizon.

"We should go," I finally broke the serene silence.

"Yeah." Riptide took off, and I admired his wingspan for a moment before leaping after him. The night was dark but clear, and with my night vision I could see everything.

We finally reached Summer Palace when all three moons had risen, three waning shapes in the sky.

"So, are you staying in the Palace now?"

"Yep. Coral seems to have a change of heart."

I shrugged. "I guess me being captured changed her mind. Anyway, then...goodnight."

"Yeah, good night," and began climbing. I had reached halfway before–

"I love you."

I stumbled over the step and turned, but Riptide was already gone. That, however, didn't stop the warm fuzzy feeling from spreading.

"I love you too, squid brain." I called softly. He wouldn't hear me, but it didn't matter.

shorter chapter this time but idk what else to put

Chapter 16

"Tsunami, wake up!"

"Go away," I groaned.

"Tsunami, you're going to miss breakfast!"

I flopped into a pillow. "Go threaten Clay with that."

"I'm going to bring in Typhoon!"

"Ah!" I sat up. "Why can't you let me sleep?"

Anemone shrugged. "C'mon, time for breakfast."

We headed down to the Council table, where the Council and my mother were already sat. Typhoon, for some reason, was not there.

"Good morning, sweetheart," Coral called. "Come and sit down, we've nearly finished."

"Where's Riptide?"

"Riptide? Oh, he's eating with Turtle and a few of your other brothers."

I plopped in to the pool skeptically. Mother had played this trick on me, but at least now I knew enough Aquatic.

"We've been discussing the people who captured you, honey," Coral announced.

"Mhm." Suddenly I remembered the conversation I overheard. "By the way, when Sapphire was torturing me–"

"Torturing?" Coral shouted. "They tortured you?"

"Yes, well, this guy stopped Sapphire and–"

"How dare they!" Coral yelled again, then sat down. "Sorry, darling, continue."

"This guy said that he wanted to hold me for ransom." Coral continued gazing at me. "Uh, I'm finished."

"Hmm..." Coral muttered, then began ranting on to the council. I ignored it and focused on breakfast.

Suddenly a guard ran in, in panic. I looked up from my breakfast as he ran into the room noisily, claws clattering on the floor and tripping, nearly smashing into Pearl, the treasury council member.

"Your majesty!" he panted.

"What is it?" Coral glared at him. "No one is supposed to interrupt council."

"But your majesty, Captain Tetra has been found murdered in the Purple Caves, with a message in her blood on the wall!"

"What?!" Coral stood up. "What does the message say?"

"The message says..." The guard shivered in fear as Coral stared at him. "*Your life is your debt, Princess.*"

The council stayed silent for a moment. I dropped the fish I was eating.

"Tsunami," Coral began.

"No, mother, I don't need a guard." I stopped her.

Her tail thrashed. "But you could die!"

"Please, mother; I don't need a guard following me around every single day, killing every single dragon who dares to look at me."

Coral glared at me. "Tsunami, I will have my say in this!"

"No, you won't! I'm not your subject!"

"You're my daughter and I need to protect you!"

"I don't need protecting! Three moons, mother, I've been fine for ages!"

"You were *caught and torture!* That is *not fine*!"

"I've survived!"

"You could have *died*!"

"But I didn't," I announced, and pushed my plates away. "I'm not hungry anymore."

"Wait! *Tsunami*!"

I ignored her and left the room.

"Hey, you." I pointed to a servant. What was his name again? Something long..."Um, uh...Operculum! Where's Riptide?"

"He's in the new seventh floor, your Highness. Do you need me to accompany you?"

I didn't reply, just shook my head and proceeded.

Riptide POV

"You've had the exact same 'you-need-protection-because-you-got-caught' reaction as mother," Tsunami fumed. "I'm fine! I can protect myself!"

"I know you can," I gentled my tone, "But it's better if you get more protection."

"I can enchant something." Turtle offered.

"I thought you didn't want to enchant much?" Tsunami peered at Turtle.

Turtle shrugged and looked at his talons. "You're my sister," he

muttered.

"Thanks then. I might hold you to your offer later." Tsunami turned back to me. "I don't need a guard or an escort or something like that following me around, slicing the face of every single dragon we meet! For goodness sake, I'm not some tiny little dragonet!"

"Fine." I grumbled. "But, if you ever get caught again, I swear, I'm going to throw all of those clodhoppers for the eels to eat. Or to Peril. By the way, what is this mysterious clodhopper you always speak about?"

Tsunami snorted and patted my back. "You'll know eventually.

"Stop being cryptic! What is a 'clodhopper'?"

Tsunami laughed, bopped my nose and ran out, smirking, ducking my glare. I chased right after her.

"Come here!" I growled.

Tsunami continued running, eventually leaping of the palace. I followed, and we flew for a short while.

"Wanna go to the waterfall again?" Tsunami flew closed and brushed her wing against mine.

"Okay. It's this way." I ducked down and headed south, towards the rainforest. "C'mon, we can swim there."

We both landed in the refreshing, cool water. Tsunami twined her tail with mine as we swam. I then popped back up. Tsunami popped up too.

"What's wrong?"

"Nothing. It's just an island. We can have a rest here."

Tsunami climbed up. I swam back down, grabbed a few fish and dropped it. Tsunami grabbed it promptly. I chuckled.

"What?"

"That's why you don't walk out of breakfast." I smugly conceded. Tsunami threw a fish at me and began wandering around the island. I continued to eat the rest of the fish; if she didn't want them, I did.

"Oh look, there's a cave here. The walls are covered in purple stuff!" Tsunami called. I peeked from behind her. "I think it's amethyst." I replied and wandered in. Then stopped in horror.

"What is it? Why'd you stop?"

Tsunami stopped too and froze. We both stared.

A dead SeaWing with pale gray scales lay on the ground, dead, looking like all the blood had been sucked out of her. A sapphire knife was stuck into her chest and the vein on her neck had been cut. There was also a knife where her tail met her body. Purple blood lay everywhere. A brush covered in blood lay in the blood pool. surrounded and dyed in red.

And a message had been painted on the wall.

Your life is your debt, Princess.

halllo! sorry 'bout taking ages to update. i live in a muslim country where there's this holiday called ramadan and i didn't do much during ramadan except drawing actors all day long and making up backstories for my new OCs. ill try update quicker next time.

btw now that Im rereading it, what *is* a clodhopper? some sort of shoe, apparently? what sort of insult is that? okay, i'll stop ranting now and get to work on chapter 17. bai!

Chapter 17 - Sapphire's fourth attack

Tsunami POV

"I have no idea why Glory called us." I grumbled. "And why she sent such a optimistic, gullible, naive and *bright blue-pink* chatterbox as a messenger."

"C'mon, it's not that bad. You just need a nap." Riptide reassured. Or more like contradicted.

"I don't need a nap."

"Yes you do. Yesterday you were up until 4 am panicking."

"Hey! If I remember correctly, that was you!"

Riptide snorted in disbelief. I replied by flicking him with my tail.

"Anyway, at least it's not one of his super excited and exuberant days. He's probably miserable today."

"*This* is miserable?!" I almost yelled.

"We're here!" Jambu announced, landed and began nervously pawing the ground. I looked around, glancing at the scenery of the forest, then dived, landing on the grassy shores. The lighter-blue, shallow water rippled as Riptide plunged into it, splashing me and Jambu. Jambu's scales flickered to a even bluer colour.

"Okay. Where next?" I asked as Riptide crawled out, shaking water everywhere.

"I need to take you to the Queen. Follow me." Jambu declared and pulled us along. RainWings were wandering around everywhere, colorful flashes surrounding the green trees. Fat treehouses with

multiple floors sat around amongst trees with heavy hammocks hanging down. Colorful flora covered many of the trees, with sunlight pouring through the leaves. Finally, we reached Glory's tree. I stepped in and gave a start.

Glory was collapsed on the hammock staring at the ceiling with her eyes closed resignedly. But that wasn't what surprised me; what surprised me was her fully blue-gray scales. Swirling patches of dark gray and light blue were randomly mixed in. Her ruff was a deep dark purple and spots of white dappled her flank, growing larger as they scattered over her tail until the tip was white. Glory typically kept her scales green.

"Glory, are you okay?" I immediately asked without actually teasing or prodding her like usual.

"No! Deathbringer is *dying*! How could I be okay!" Glory shrieked. I winced and covered my ears. I'd never heard Glory shriek before, but the sound was high pitched and shrill, piercing my ears to pieces. It was so shrill that I didn't even understand it for a moment before I finally got what she said.

"Wait, what? Deathbringer's *dying*?"

Glory responded by throwing a glow-in-the-dark moth that sat on a night orchid at me. As in: she threw the night orchid. The moth immediately got flung off and drifted to the ground, then flapping up again, surprised and a bit dizzy, getting hit by the wall of the treehouse before flying out again.

"Actually, your Majesty–"

"Get the hell out of my house and leave me alone!"

Jambu gave us regretful looks. "Sorry about this. I tried calling Clay and Sunny, but they've both got their hands full in trying to manage the school. Oh, right; Clay said that he'd rather go to Sea Kingdom to investigate the murder rather than be headmaster any longer."

Tough luck. Like my mother would allow that.

"No problem." I replied and strode into the room. "Glory, what

happened? How is Deathbringer dying? He's a bodyguard, he should have no problem."

Glory snorted, and a slight bit of yellow sneaked into her ruff. "He's a self appointed bodyguard with no qualifications," she corrected.

I ignored her. "What happened?"

Glory scowled at me, the sunny yellow being replaced with dark fire red. "Just leave me alone."

I sighed. "Okay. You can tell me when you're ready. But whatever it is, trust me, it's all going to be fine."

Glory snorted again. "If you're trying to give me a supportive speech, quit it out. You're terrible at it."

"Hey!" I growled then sighed again and shut up.

We sat in silence for a few minutes, before Glory suddenly broke the silence.

"Hope asked a few NightWings to take care of Peacemaker for a while because she needed to travel somewhere, but then Peacemaker ran off, following a trail of strawberry bushes.

He eventually got to the Royal Pavilion, where I'd just finished a meeting for the NightWing huts. So me and Deathbringer tried to get him back to the NightWings, but he wanted to pick strawberries for a while longer. Then me and Deathbringer turned to talk to a RainWing who said there had been a minor fire started in her treehouse but that nothing had been harmed, so I told her I'd go investigate later. Then I turned again and..." Glory shuddered, and a terrified pale green slipped slowly from her tail up. "Peacemaker had a knife in his chest." She paused for another long interval, allowing me to think.

The murderer must have tried to murder Peacemaker because of something. The only thing I could think of was an IceWing or NightWing who hated Darkstalker, an IceWing who hated Hope, someone who hated Glory and wanted to do something in her kingdom or someone who hated the RainWings. The fire was

definitely a distraction while the murderer tried to kill people. But did that mean that their massacre wasn't done?"

"Then," Glory suddenly continued, startling me out of my thoughts. "Deathbringer heard a dragon shuffling, so he leapt at them. I turned just in time to see him slash at metal armour before being stabbed in the stomach with a knife. The murderer then vanished." An angry dark red, a displeased emerald and an annoyed orange splashed over her scales. She now looked like a painting disaster. "I told him not to risk himself for me! I *told* him! Why couldn't he have listened? Then nothing would have happened to him or us or anyone!"

I politely didn't mention Peacemaker and let her rant on while I continued thinking. Someone with armour. Normally, only people who were in the army would ever get armour. The RainWings and NightWings didn't even have armour which meant it wasn't either. It would be someone from the Royal Family or the Army from one of the other tribes.

Glory finished ranting and collapsed again. Jambu peeked in, then, realising Glory wasn't throwing anything at him anymore, stepped in, followed by Riptide.

"Glory, you said you'd investigate the fire in Color's treehouse today."

"Tell her to wait!" Glory shouted and threw a...jambu at Jambu. Jambu caught it with his mouth and leapt out before more flying fruit missiles came his way. "Everyone out and let me mope in peace! Just let me wallow in my self pity, for goodness's sake!"

I thoughtfully wandered out, then flew towards the Healer's Pavillion. Time to visit Deathbringer.

Riptide POV

"Where are we going?" I asked Tsunami as she spread open her wings and leapt forward.

"Healer's Pavillion." Tsunami replied.

"To visit Deathbringer?"

"Yup."

We flew back through the raucous, noisy RainWing village. RainWings were talking in groups on a few platforms.

"The Queen's bodyguard's sick with some sort of plague! He's been stuck in the Healer's Pavilion for ages..."

"The Queen also has this plague!"

"Same plague the IceWings had when Darkstalker woke..."

"Must be Peacemaker doing something..."

"He's enchanted to forget everything though, isn't he?"

"What do you mean, Peacemaker? That sweet kid wouldn't hurt a fly."

"Darkstalker would! Peacemaker is actually Darkstalker in disguise..."

"Send for the IceWing-SeaWing healer who healed the plague..."

"That's all wrong. I heard that Deathbringer killed both the Queen and Peacemaker!"

The RainWings exploded with protests as they began to argue. Tsunami didn't seem to have heard them. However, I felt a flicker of annoyance, but I ignored it and followed Tsunami. We landed on the Healing Pavillion.

"Where's Deathbringer?" Tsunami asked a nearby healer.

"Your Highness," the white RainWing bowed and nodded to us. "He's still in a serious condition, but should be out of fatal danger."

We followed the healer to Deathbringer, who had a bloody wound on his stomach. Tsunami kneeled over him and began examining.

I pushed her out of the way. "Hey. Eyes front."

Tsunami rolled her eyes and repeated my actions, pushing me out of the way.

"The line...it's familliar...somehow..."

"What?" I gave her a baffled look.

"The knife wound. It looks like..." She suddenly looked up at me in horror. "Sapphire," she whispered.

I gazed at the wound too. A jagged line with three branches.

"Excuse me," Tsunami called to the healer. "Do you still have the weapon used against Deathbringer?"

"Yes, your Highness," The healer replied.

"Can you show us?"

"Of course, your Highness." The healer ran off, before coming back carrying a knife on a piece of scroll that had been stained with red. The knife was a shiny blue colour and glinted in the light, stained by deep dark red blood. Three branches were attached to the main blade.

A sapphire blade.

Chapter 18 - Attack on JMA

yup, this stupid update took me like half a year – this is just kinda a filler chapter between 17 and 19. chapter 19 will be full of action, hopefully, and make up for this one.

Tsunami POV

"I don't know what I'm supposed to do!" I yelled. Riptide, Clay, Sunny and Moonwatcher were all cowering in the corner.

"Tsunami–"

"Don't tell me to calm down!" I began pacing again, along the now dented circle. "All the parents could ask for their children back! And then all of them'll be vulnerable to attacks as well as all the tribes accusing each other of everything, especially being the murdering tribe. And then all those dragonets are gonna die and the entire of Pyrrhia's going to go to war again!"

"I don't think it's going to escalate that fast–"

I flung a vase of flowers across the room. It immediately shattered, the pieces falling everywhere and the water splashing up, exploding forward.

I then grabbed another one and threw it as well, simply because I couldn't think of another argument.

"Tsunami, please, just stop for a moment and t–"

"We're going to need guards. Guards for the school. Alert the other kingdoms, Sapphire might target them soon. And–"

"Tsunami, stop pacing. You're making a dent in the floor." Riptide sighed.

I looked down. There was a clear rut on the ground; damn it.

"And those vases were expensive," added Clay. "I could have bought, like five birds to eat with that money." I glared, at him, and he hastily added, "Metaphorically. It's a relative statement."

I sighed. "Fine. Let me just check on Winter first, and then we have to strengthen the guards around the mountain. Also, no more outdoor hunting or anything like that either. We have to figure this out."

So we went to Winter's room, where Winter was lying unconscious on a bed. A bandage covered his chest and his talons were covered in...blood?

I cautiously examined the blood. It wasn't IceWing blood, as it was far too dark a blue. It was... SeaWing blood?

I gasped. "It's Sapphire's blood."

"She's gotten careless this time," Riptide added. "That's good.

"There's nothing good about Winter being almost murdered!" Moon growled.

That's pretty unlike her, from my experience.

"Moon," Winter suddenly muttered. Everyone froze, except for Moon, who began crying.

I coughed awkwardly and passed her a tissue, then whispered to Sunny, "Did something happen to her?" Sunny lent over to whisper in my ear. "She's not had an easy week, first Winter being stabbed and then she and Qibli having an argument...not a big one, of course, Qibli loves Moon, but still." Sunny then ushered Moon out while I turned to winter again

"Anemone almost threw a fit, I think. When Winter was attacked."

"Anemone? Throwing a fit over *Winter*?" I snorted in disbelief. "That's new."

"Actually. I believe she was actually worried about how half of her treasure was gone and if the scavengers died, then it would be a

waste," Riptide put in. I chuckled. "That's sounds more like her."

I then turned around and began pacing again. "If there was some way to lure Sapphire somehow... and then catch her..."

Suddenly, another bird flew out of nowhere and began chirping loudly. Clay jumped back with a yell, Riptide growled and got ready to pounce while I grabbed the bird out of the air. Again, tied to its leg was a message. I absentmindedly tossed the bird aside. Then gasped.

"Riptide – Mother has been attacked! There were guards at her room and she still got stabbed!" I then sighed with relief at the next passage. "She's fine though, she managed to claw the attacked and escape..."

A loud squawk interrupted me, and I looked up to see the bird vanished, then glared at Clay. As expected, the bird was already being eaten. Clay gave me a guilty look, dropped the bird and chuckled awkwardly. "Hehe..."

I sighed. "There's not much I can do here. Just make sure that Winter's fine. No more hunts outside, as I said, and make sure to get people to guard JMA."

"Got it."

Me and Riptide nodded, then both jumped out, exiting JMA and heading back to the Sea Palace.

Chapter 19

Tsunami POV

"Right. All the exits have been blocked with guards so no one can sneak in, for sure, and none of the guards noticed anything abnormal."

"That's right, your highness."

"And the only people who entered my mother's room during the night were a few patrolling guards and two of the council officials."

"Yes, your highness."

"Who were the two council officials?"

"Uh, Lionfish, the new SeaWing general, and Typhoon, the, uh, Royal Scribe."

Dang it. Typhoon, again. But as much as I despised him, I couldn't believe him to have attacked mother. He had no guts and no strength.

And this Lionfish happened to be an expert in warfare who had no proof that he wouldn't murder, while Typhoon had a couple of years of his position with no black marks to prove it. Things were looking bleak for Lionfish.

I'd already visited Mother, who was fine and even conscious. Thankfully. The knife only just missed her vitals. Somehow. So, thinking of it that way, Typhoon was more likely. Otherwise, Mother just happened to secretly be a war general who'd trained for years.

There had been nothing in her room that hadn't previously be there, and not a single thing out of place, except for an ornamental

headress covered in jewels that I'd never seen before, but then, jewellery's all over the palace. The style definitely wasn't anything modern either, grand and huge.

I paced up and down the hallway once more. Goodness knows why they ask someone like me to try to find stuff up; I'm far too dumb for this. I eventually just give up and leave the hallway, thinking instead about Sapphire, still getting no answer, and henceforth irritatedly going to bed.

The next day, Mother went out in public and showed she wasn't dead, blah blah blah, and held a council. Unknown to anyone, guards were surrounding her, undercover, killing anyone who showed any sign of suspicion. We were sitting in the council room with ten bulky guards when suddenly, the door was flung open.

"Prince Crabfish is gone!" A soldier burst in with alarm.

"Who's Crabfish?" Me and Mother both asked simultaneously. Then I processed what he said. "*What?* My brother?"

Mother had also understood. "A prince has been taken? *A prince?* This is an insult to the SeaWing throne!" She declared angrily and loudly. She then coughs and specks of blood spurts out. SeaWings shout with alarm and rush forward. I do as well, worried. Mother waves everyone off and continued. "Oh, and my son's gone, but that's less important," she added in an afterthought, nonchalantly. I sighed heavily with exasperation and frustration.

"We need to go and rescue them!" Mother continued raging. "From wherever they are! Where are the guards that protect him?" she growled angrily, then coughed. The soldier shivered with fright.

"Dead, Majesty, their blood painted on the wall like with the General," he sqeuaked. "It said that for him to be freed..."

"Yes?" Mother growled.

"For Crabfish to be freed, Tsunami had to marry Typhoon."

shorter than I wanted it but i have school tomorrow and i need to go to sleep now so bai

i promise ill update soon for real this time!!

Chapter 20

hopefully this chapter will be better...

"A group of rebels in war paint will not tell me what to do!" Mother screams. I wince as my eardrums thunder. There is no pacifying her now. All her council members have expected this and have all either covered their ears, or politely pretended not to hear anything. "I shall battle them till the end for them to return the prince of the SeaWing royal family! This is a dishonour my family name! Prepare the army!"

At here, I finally protested. "Mother! I just stopped a war!"

"It's fine, darling, a little one won't hurt," she soothed and continued to shout at Shark.

"Isn't there some way to work it out peacefully?" I asked.

Mother's face darkened briefly, and I stepped back in shock. Mother had always been a generally cheerful person, and I'd never seen her upset before, excluding the flares of temper, except for when...oh, no. Gill.

"It never does," she quietly whispered, then turned and left. The council members followed her, leaving me to sit on the floor alone.

"The little princess, unguarded, alone, no one to help her. What a rare sight." I swivelled around to see Typhoon, face set in a supposedly pleasant face, yet it looked more like a grimace. I growled. "What do you want?"

"Is that any way to treat your husband?" Typhoon replied, his voice silky, yet full of hatred, anger.

"You're not my husband, sick psycho," I snarled back.

Typhoon frowned thunderously, all signs of even slight friendliness gone. "You might want to reconsider some that. You seemed to have

forgotten about my influential ways, and remember, Princess, that many of those you love and cherish, live within these palace walls."

My eyes widen with shock and I crouch down, ready to pounce, anger stirring with in me, a red hot fire of rage. He dared to threaten me about harming my family. He dared...Mother. Mother had been injured. And he had gone into her room. *It fits,* I thought. My face twitched, and I only just managed not to tear him apart on the spot. Not for his sake, but so I wouldn't get his disgusting blood splattered over me.

"You." I clenched my teeth with fury. "It was you, wasn't it? You were the one who tried to murder Mother."

A brief flicker of something passed over his eyes, something that seemed like...remorse? Then the flicker vanished back into hostility, and I dismissed it without a thought, too consumed by madness to think about it.

"Not exactly," he replied.

"Are you threatening me?" I shoot back, ignoring his answer.

Typhoon smiled twistedly. "I'm glad I've got my point across, Princess. Like if anything were to happen to those eggs..."

I roar and leap for him. Out of nowhere, a knife flies out, glinting blue.

Sapphire. How was she here? Panic overcomes me for a brief moment, but the fear triggers my instincts and I duck. The knife flies and hits the wall with a loud slice. Guards rush in with surprise, seeing the knife with shouts and screeches. Sapphire screams when guards overcome her, grabbing her. An explosion of air flies out with an explosion, and guards fly back, landing unconscious on the ground, but there are far too many, and the hoard of guards overcome Sapphire, who only just manages to hold them off. Meanwhile, me and Typhoon are still fighting, and he grabs the knife, ready to throw it, but then Riptide appears, grabs the knife away and snaps it in half with a single tug. His brow is furrowed, slits of eyes seeming to glint red from the light reflecting

off the coral out of the windows, veins bulging and pulsing, creating a terrifying image.

I turn, as Typhoon is thrown against a wall by Riptide, this time leaping for Sapphire. With whatever cursed powers she had gotten last time, taking her by surprise was now the best choice. I leap and push her into the ground. A burst of fire leaps from her claws for me, but I duck and fan it away. The spark lands on her tail and begins sizzling and flashing. I immediately leap back without thinking, pulling a group of guards back with me, and the spark explodes, smoke obscuring everything.

Then the smoke clears, revealing Sapphire, unharmed, her hood blasted into smoke, and finally revealing her face. A spike of panic shoots into me as the smoke uncovers...royal blue scales, sharp white teeth. Warm green eyes.

"Mother?" I whisper. Then, relieved, I realise it isn't mother, as there is a missing of a narwhal tail. Yet the resemblance is uncanny, and Sapphire could be her twin. Her wings faintly flutter, drawing my attention to...swirling patterns. Royal patterns. The wings collapse weakly, and Sapphire coughs, seeming to be delirious. "Dad? Weren't you killed by Uncle Shark?"

Shark. Uncle Shark. If it was the same Shark as my uncle, it would mean Sapphire was my cousin, or even...my sister.

Sapphire's warm green eyes flutter shut, and guards drag her away. Riptide is suddenly at my shoulder, touching me with a claw that has been dyed purple with blood. I barley notice him.

Weren't you killed by Uncle Shark?

Shark has some explaining to do, I grimly thought.

***insert dramatic music* sapphire's royal!**

don't worry, she won't be one of those super over powered royal ocs that everyone likes to make who eventually rule all of pyrhhia. she's just a normal seawing, i promise. even her powers have an explanation, she wasn't born with them.

i'm relativley pleased with this chapter anyhow, so i hope you enjoyed it too. updates coming soon!

Chapter 21

(btw this is tsunami pov but from now on ill probably not put the [Tsunami POV] becauese it's almost always tsunami's pov so if it doesn't say anything above it's probably tsunami's pov)

"Once," Shark growled.

"What do you mean, once? I'm asking if you had another sibling or not!"

"We don't speak of her!" Shark shouted, his rigid demeanour evaporating for a brief moment before he recovered and sat back down in his pool.

"Because you murdered her?" I growled right back.

"When a killer is commanded, do you blame the killer or the master?" Shark retorts back. "I had my reasons."

"Sure, really? Let's hear them then."

"Who are you to command me to tell you reasons of my choices?" Shark snarled.

"Your conscience should be enough for that!" I shout. "If you had a heart!"

Shark flinched, then his eyes flared, glaring red. "The rulers of nations must never appear weak. That does not mean being cruel, but to show the citizens their limits. Do you think I, or anyone in the army, kills because they wish to? Do you think that everyone who kills does it for blood, victory and satisfaction, unreasonable and cold blooded? If a person kills, should he be killed as well, a life for a life? You don't understand any of this, apparently, so you have no right to question me!"

"Tell me your reason then, if it isn't just to murder!"

Shark snarled once again. "It's none of your business! I was right to do it, and if I could have I'd do it again, even earlier!"

I gaped at him in shock. "You're a monster," I whisper, then stomp out of the room, bumping into Anemone.

"Hey, Tsunami! Tsunami?"

I glance at her, then move on.

"Uh, Tsunami? You look irritated, are you okay?"

"Absolutely not," I growl. "I want to know why Shark murdered our aunt."

Anemone gasped with shock and looked around nervously. "Shhh! Mother hates being reminded of that."

"What? You know about it too, and you didn't tell me!" I snarl.

"I don't know exactly what happened either, some scandal about a princess, I think. They tried to hush it up as much as possible, so I'm pretty sure only the people who handled the records know about it. You should ask that dragon in the archive, he probably knows."

I relaxed slightly. "Thanks, Anemone. That's helpful." Anemone nodded and scurried away while I wandered to the archives.

The dragon there was quite old, around forty already. He scrunched up his eyes to look at me, then bowed, murmuring, "Highness."

"What do you know about my aunt being killed?" I immediately asked. Okay, headstrong and rude, but I wasn't in the mood for any type of small talk.

"When time passes, life fades into legends, and now, only myths remain. The dragon paused, then coughed slowly. "Are you sure you would like to know about that, Princess?"

"Yes," I immediately replied. "I command you to!"

The dragon sighed. "Very well, then. You already know that once,

you had an aunt."

I nodded.

"She was beautiful, royal sea blue scales, small white teeth and, like your mother, warm grey eyes. And her name was...Princess Sapphire II."

I almost gasped audibly, but managed to contain it.

"Princess Sapphire II was one of the most desired dragons in all of the SeaWing Kingdom, but as a princess, she was untouchable, unreachable. Yet the young rash princess did not follow the rules at all. She was supposed to be married to the lord in the kingdom, but she loved a traitor."

Like me and Riptide, I thought. *At least we're not dead...yet. How will this legend end?*

"On the night of her marriage to the lord, she eloped with the traitor. The lord was infuriated, but there was nothing he could do. But the Queen was enraged that her face had been lost in front of the entire continent. She commanded hundreds of soldiers to find them, including your uncle Shark."

"Shark finally found her. Princess Sapphire II was Shark's elder sister. They were close, extremely close, and when Shark begged her to return, she agreed, and when she returned, even the Queen's heart melted, and she agreed to not execute her for her crimes."

Not that she did do anything wrong, she just loved, I thought.

"But the lord would not accept it. Furious at his ruined reputation and the scorn from others, as well as his betrothed's involvement with someone who he had deep, everlasting hatred with, he demanded the betrothed *and* the traitor's execution. He badgered and badgered recklessly, spreading rumours of the Royal family's corruption and elitism, sending henchman to attack innocent dragons to back up his rumours. When the dragons began to revolt, the Queen had no choice but to send out the beautiful young princess."

"But when it turned out that the traitor was not present, the lord was not satisfied with just the princess's surrender. He demanded something that scared even the citizens of the Kingdom. His demand was that a member of the Royal Family had to execute Sapphire II with their own talons."

I didn't contain my shock this time; I gasped, loud and clear, affronted and shocked. Who was this lord, so cruel and merciless?

"And so the tale ends, Sapphire II herself agreeing to sacrifice herself for her family to not be slaughtered in rebellion, agreeing that her own brother would execute her, would draw his claws across her soft neck. The lord was satisfied with it and served the royal family loyally afterwards. The young princess's traitor lover was never found."

"And...then? What happened afterwards? Did the lord not get executed?" I asked, and immediately regretted it, realising how stupid the question was.

"It is not a fairy tale," the dragon slowly pronounced. "The good do not win over the bad by default. The lord remained rich and powerful till the end of his life." He sighed again. "Of course, there are tales...but they are tales, nothing else."

"What tales?" I immediately ask.

"They are tales, rumours, fake and made up by the common folk's boredom! I do not pay much care to them!"

I just stare at him and wait. He sighs for the third time.

"Very well. Some say that that was not all, not the end of it. It is said that the young traitor lover, filled with anger, cursed the royal family. That no love would remain in it, no two royal lovers to die in each other's arms after. That each princess's lover would live a painful life and die a brutal death, killed by their own kin, like Sapphire II. A rumour that circulated after His Majesty's death. Ridiculous, of course. King Gill was killed by a brave SeaWing maiden who had suffered the same fate of dryness as he had, yet held herself together and ended King Gill's life to end his suffering

before ending her own."

I bit my lip with nervousness and fear. I had killed Gill. I was royal. Gill had been killed by his own kin, and had died a brutal death, and had lived in pain before his death. What if...what if Riptide would suffer the same fate?

The moment I thought that, I growled internally. He wouldn't die. He wasn't allowed to. I would make sure of that.

No matter what happened, a scandal like Sapphire II's would never happen again if I had anything to do with it. I would make sure of it.

Chapter 22

i know no update, I'M SORRY 😩 i was grounded ;-;

and now ive pretty much forgotten what i'd planned...but it's fine! ill just wing it

also tryna string together some sort of unscrewed up schedule but im probably too disorganised for that to happen

"We have captured the murdered, your royal majesty," the guard bowed down to Mother.

"And what of that traitor, Typhoon? Speak." Coral commanded as the guard trembled and avoided her gaze.

"A...apologies, your majesty, but Typhoon escaped. The members of that rebel group managed to get him past our guards, and harmed a few of them to death as well."

Coral roared incoherently. I winced. "You're dismissed," I yelled at the guard before Coral did something rash and injured him. Yes, Coral might be irritated at me later, but at least she wouldn't injure me or harm me in any way, like she might to the guard.

Coral finished her wordless rant and gave a sigh. "Whirlpool always served me well...how can their family be traitors? Whirlpool would risk his life for Anemone. Even if he wouldn't do the same for you, he would help the royal family no matter what. I never expected his brother to be the traitor."

Whirlpool was a traitor too, I thought angrily, remembering his calculating rants to me and anemone about who would be a better queen and protest less to his schemes. And when he tried to kill me. And also, the fact that she added "even if he wouldn't do the same for you" did not help at all. Although I would still hate both of them the same if that wasn't added.

"I still remember when they were younger, and they'd spend hours pouring over their Pyhrric War books. They loved that for some reason, some reason I'd never understand, I always hated them. I suppose it makes sense, with Whirlpool becoming such an important scholar." Coral reminisced. "Typhoon loved his brother devoutly. He followed whatever his brother did, and helped him no matter what. With Whirlpool such a royalist, I aways expected Typhoon to stay on the royal's side. And good thing too, they'd be a deadly duo if they weren't on our side."

"Wait a minute..." I slowly muttered, processing what she said. "So, Typhoon was Whirlpool's helper, right?"

"Indeed," Coral nodded. "I remember the two of them scheming to prank other dragons when they were younger. Ah, those were the days...and Gill would..." Coral frowned at her mention of Gill, but I ignored her.

"So – where was Typhoon when I came back here?"

Coral thought for a moment. "I believe that was he'd just finished going to the Imperial SeaWing College of Economic and Political Affairs, if I'm not wrong. Right, Whirlpool said something about letting Typhoon bunk with him. He also said that Typhoon was helping him with inking some of my stories, and I said that it was okay. That was when Typhoon set up the Association of Royal Protection and Guarding. I genuinely thought he was trying to help at the time, especially as Whirlpool was the sponsor and a leader of it, but I guess I was wrong. Look what it's become, a rebel group who wants to overthrow me and set up Typhoon on the throne. Which is strange as well, honestly. Typhoon used to hate responsibility and declined me twenty six times when I offered to make him a baron. A small position with quite little responsibility, yet he declined, citing the responsibility as the exact reason he refused. He always hated being duty bound, I believe. I can't think why he would want to be king."

I thought hard, trying to piece the pieces together. Whirlpool wanted to be king, and plotted against me and mother. Typhoon didn't want to be king, but supported Whirlpool with anything, and happened to be close to Whirlpool at the time of his plotting, and at

the time of setting up the association which now sought to overthrow Coral. Which happened to be sponsored by Whirlpool.

Somehow, Whirlpool was tied to this. Typhoon wanted to overthrow Coral yet not wanting to become king. Could he possibly have aided Whirlpool with trying to overthrow Coral, placing Anemone on the throne and crowning Whirlpool? Was that his goal? It would make sense and fit into the puzzle.

But if that was his goal back then, what was his goal now? Whirlpool was dead, and I'd never heard of even an animus able to bring back someone from the dead. So what was he trying to do now? Even if he did overthrow Coral...then potentially marry me...what then? If he truly didn't want to be king, that was all a useless plan.

Unless, there was truly a way to bring someone back from the dead. Which would mean if he did all that he planned, he would indeed be able to make Whirlpool king as he intended.

I stood up, and clattered out the room, my claws loud in the silent, almost stifling room, in which I'd pondered and Coral mourned and ran towards the library. The librarian looked up with a glare when I reached there, then flinched and bowed. "Your highness."

"Yes, yes. Do you know if there's any way for a dead dragon to be bought back to life?"

The librarian frowned. "I don't believe so, your highness. The most powerful animus have said that they are unable to." The librarian scrambled up and ran to the rows of shelves, pulling out a book. "Here, I recommend you read this."

Upon the cover were the words "Study on the Limit to Animus Power". I grimaced internally. If only Starflight hadn't returned to JMA. Now there was no way to force him to read the book and sum it up. Although it would be more of a lecture and less of a sum up. I picked the book up and wandered off, settling into a nearby pool and beginning to read.

a bit short but im tryna get the update out asap again i'm sorry ;-; please don't hate me–

ill try make the next one longer and get it out within a week (i know that's a long time but if i set it shorter i probably won't manage it)

anyway thanks for reading bye bye

Chapter 23

Two hours later I was still pouring over the book, sitting in uncomfortable positions to stay awake. The book had not helped at all. Which should have been obvious, since it wasn't titled "How to revive a dragon". It mentioned that while recreating a dragon was possible by giving it a body, memories and a decision making network or a 'personality', there was no true way to make a dragon feel revived for themselves and these 'recreations' would be revived for others.

And no, I got basically none of it, and flying back to JMA to ask Starflight would take too long. So I just ignored it and read on.

However, in the bit, there was a footnote which mentioned that souls with stronger willpowers would stay on the world as ghosts. Likewise, animus with stronger willpowers wouldn't go mad.

Which still did not help my question of revival. I shoved the book away from me and got up. At that moment, a guard ran in. "Your highness, the prisoner, Sapphire, is awake, if you wish to see her."

I frowned. Did I want to see Sapphire?

"I assure you, she's securely guarded. We have chains which bind her powers and–"

"Very well. I'll go and see her." Who knows, she might be helpful. Though I doubted it.

I followed the guard out of the palace and into the eel prison. I shuddered at the memory of being stuck within with my friends...and Whirlpool dying. I determinedly pushed the image away.

"Here, your highness," The guard bowed, pointing to a cell and scurrying away. I turned towards it. The cell is half covered in

shadows, with the water blocking a lot of light. A silhouette is within the shadows, but with my approach, she steps out. It is still dark, and hard to see her, with the water refracting her body.

"So what brings you here, Princess?" Sapphire snarls. "Here to gloat, or interrogate me? You'll receive nothing, it's no use." The voice comes out strange, as if going through sn intense filter. Which I suppose it was, with the water curtain.

I considered it for a moment. Might as well get confirmation on the story first, I suppose.

"Actually, I'm here to ask you about, well, my aunt."

Sapphire went still, then narrowed her eyes. "And where did you hear that from?"

"That's irrelevant." I hastily inserted. "So, are you Princess Sapphire's daughter?"

"Why should I tell you that?' Sapphire growled.

"Because, uh..." I had nothing to say to such as statement.

Sapphire closed her eyes briefly, then turned away, retreating back into the shadows. For a moment, I thought that the conversation was over and that she wouldn't speak to me and that the trip was useless, but then she spoke once again.

"She used to speak so highly of him, her idyllic elder brother, ever her idol and helper. The things they got up to when they were younger, the pranks they pulled off, the jokes they had. Ever a supporter, no matter what. And of course there was her mother. A perfect queen, a perfect mother. Gentle, helpful, always making time for her. She trusted them with her life."

I said nothing.

"Such a ridiculous concept. Trust. As if no-one's heart hides dark secrets," Sapphire sneered. "Saying you trust someone is just saying there's a possibility they'll betray you."

"As if she could trust them. Look where that got her. But still, she was a good mother. She met the expectations she'd set for her mother, gentle too, selfless. I always got food first while she starved. Anything that she found, jewellery, scrolls, money, whatever it was, she always showed me first. She was a way better mother than that flighty Queen."

Sapphire stopped speaking, and I heard a sigh. "What do you care about it, anyway? It's not going to affect you anyway."

"I'm sorry for your–"

"No, no. You're not sorry for anything. You were completely uninvolved, anyway. You might feel pity for me, but sorry?" She snorted.

"So...why did you decide to help Typhoon?"

"Why? What do you mean, why? I thought you were the short-tempered, flaring SeaWing princess who thought that all the SeaWings were entitled to serve her?" Sapphire growled. "The only thing stopping you from killing everyone for your goals is that you've better ways.

And traumatic events, too. Gill's neck snapping underneath my hands flashed in my mind, and I suddenly feel sick, but I push it away resolutely. Pondering on the past was futile and useless.

"But when you've sunk as low as me, those don't exist or even matter anymore. But nevertheless, you should understand."

"So...revenge?"

Sapphire snorted again and I heard rustling of wings, but she didn't reply. I moved on.

"But why does Typhoon want to overthrow Coral and marry me? He doesn't want to be king, does he?"

"He doesn't. He wants his brother on the throne. How, I have no idea. I don't care about those technicalities." Sapphire snapped. "And I'm sure that *great and clever and merciful Queen* Coral, has

figured it out already. If she really is as clever as the scrolls depict her. But even if she hasn't, it hardly matters. What's the difference between who else goes on the throne? As long as she's the one on the throne, she won't care about any of that."

"Not all royals are that cold-hearted," I protested.

Sapphire ignored me. I sighed.

"Fine. I'll leave then, since you're clearly not going to offer anything else."

"Good," I hear the quiet mutter.

I flew back to Summer Palace and sat in a random sofa for a rest. And then a dragon steps in.

"Oh, Riptide! Hey..." I tiredly welcome.

"This isn't working out, Tsunami."

"Wha...what do you mean?"

"We're in a relationship now, but I feel like we're hardly seeing each other. In fact, I think we're seeing each other less than we did before this."

"So..." I frowned.

"We can't do this anymore."

I sat up immediately. "Wait. You mean...you want to..."

"I'm not saying we should stop," Riptide reassured me hastily. "I'm just saying we need to stop getting absorbed in the investigations more than each other. After all, now that there's no one dying and Sapphire's been captured, we're more important than a potential but unconfirmed war."

I narrowed my eyes. "You mean you think our own welfare is more important than the welfare of an entire tribe?"

"That's not what I meant!" Riptide protested.

"Because if that's really what you think, then maybe you're right, this isn't working out."

"Tsunami! Stop it! I'm not saying we should break up, and nor am I saying that we're more important than the tribe! Of course I value peace more than our own selfish wants. But what I'm saying is that with no urgent developments happening, we should spend this time before the storm as best as possible."

I relaxed, laughing nervously at my stupidity in thinking that Riptide could be any different to the brave dragon I'd known all along. "You're right. I'm sorry for focusing on Sapphire and Typhoon more than you. You're right, we should spend more time together now before we have to actually fight. We need to value this time, while there's nothing life threatening going on."

At that precise moment, a guard ran in. "Your highness! Typhoon has captured Prince Cerulean, Prince Fin, Prince Ibis and Prince Loon. Her majesty is infuriated, she wishes to send an army to the rebel's camp. She has sent for you."

I glanced at Riptide with an equally worried and irritated expression.

"Three moons, why did I open my big mouth to tempt fate," Riptide groaned. "Who even names their son Loon, that's insane."

Look at me, updating the very next day, i kinda scrapped this one together but hey it worked and i don't think it's too terrible, and it's not too short either : D

update coming soon, like seriously, coming soon, not in a bajillion years

Chapter 24

sorry update a bit late but it's better than a couple of months at least, this one's also a bit short but at least i managed to get it out lol

"This is an insult to the SeaWing tribe!" Mother stormed. "We will take up arms and March against them if I command it so!"

"We just stopped a war-"

"We will weed these rebels out for once and for all, with no mercy!" Coral roared.

"...mother-"

"This is unforgivable! They have crossed the final line!"

"Mother, for the moons' sake, listen!" I growled.

"You can't expect me to ignore this insult yet again!" Mother shouted.

"But if we attack them it's just going to turn into full out war," I pleaded. "We need some way to bargain or some strategy to get them back."

"We have a commander who's in charge of strategy," Mother responded. "The only way out of this situation is war! There's no way to avoid it anymore!"

"We have to at least *try* to avoid war." I determinedly pestered.

"And why should we do that? They've taken princes. Princes! How dare they? This has gone beyond just rebellion. It's turned personal."

Sure, personal, as if you can actually even remember their name. But it wasn't as if I could say much to her argument, and though I tried a

few more times to stop her, she still refused.

"But I'm sure there are other, more peaceful ways out of this–"

There could be, but to stand up and let them walk over me is in no way a queen!" Coral declared. I said nothing in response. I sort of understood where she was getting at, but still didn't agree with it.

But I could hardly just leave my brothers in the hands of Typhoon. And as much as I disliked the army mother was sending, they were still the best way to get to the rebel group's headquarters, where I assumed they'd keep both my brothers. Riptide, to my surprise, agreed with this idea, with one little catch.

"But I'm coming with you."

"You are not coming," I replied stubbornly. He rolled his eyes.

"And of course I imagine you have a plan?" Riptide drily replied.

"...fine, you can come. But how do you have a plan if you don't even know where they're kept?" I growled. Then I relaxed as much as possible. "Sorry, I'm just irritable because, you know."

Riptide nodded and stroked my back soothingly. I almost flinched with surprise but contained it.

"Let's go, then." I said to cover up my surprise.

We reached the HQ of the rebel group, yet the stone walls were devoid of life. It appeared almost completely abandoned. No guards patrolled the wall and the coral appeared to have been cut. Coral frowned, but ordered her siege soldiers to move in anyway. In no time, the gates were broken, yet still, there was no one within. Soldiers poured in with noisy clatters and into the covered courtyard, in which there was no water for some strange reason, disturbing the former eerie silence.

Eerie silence...there was nobody here. Yet, there was also no proof that anyone had indeed been here once. All evidence of life had been wiped away, which meant that they'd been warned.

It also meant that my brothers weren't here, which was less of a source of concern to Coral than me.

"How did they know we would come here? They must have been warned." Coral growled. "Spies, spies in my court!"

At that moment, there was sudden metallic clank, like the flicking of a lever. Coral frowned, and a group of soldiers headed vaguely into the noise's direction. And then, there was a quiet rustle, like the whistle of a wind. For a moment, I thought I'd mistaken the sound.

Yet then, from the ceiling and the towers and into the open courtyard, fell giant nets, almost invisible, fine silver strings interwoven together. The soldiers gave shouts of panic. I ran forward and grabbed mother out, yet it was too late, for the wings were already tangled up in the strings. Mother, however, simply swiped through the net with her narwhal tail, unpetrebuted, the string sliced easily and diverted on her tail, wrapping themselves instead upon the tail. But very infuriated.

"They have the audacity to dare try and trap their queen! And not only that, but they believe that I am one so weak as to be kept down by nothing but a net to trap fish! As if kidnapping the princes wasn't enough of an insult!"

Then the floor cracked underneath us, loudly, sickeningly. Soldiers yelled in alarm as they were carried down with their wings sickeningly bound. Mother, also caught by surprise, flailed as her tail swung desperately, trying to balance. I rushed forward and catched her, Riptide running behind me and catching me before I fell as well. Underneath was a lake of pure, bubbling lava.

So that was the reason why there was no water. I watched in pure horror as the soldiers writhed.

"Quick! Cut the roof open and let water in!" I shrieked as soldiers fell desperately. A few of the remaining soldiers at the edge immediately obliged, shooting up and slicing the cloth roof in seconds. Water poured in immediately. I peered over once again. A few soldiers had already begun to skim the surface of the lava, yet

the water fell faster than the dragons, the weight of the ocean pushing it down, with the help of the remaining soldier's tail sweeps. Water enveloped the lava, turning it into stone. The soldiers relaxed, stopping their struggles and landing on the stone floor.

Yet suddenly a warm blast of water forced its way in. A stream of water in the centre heated up to the point of boiling, turning the water around it warm as well. Guards flopped away from the stream desperately, and I swiped my tail to send cooler water to the stream, yet it was no use. The water vanished to be filled by cooler waters, yet the cooler waters were also boiled. The roof had somehow also repaired itself, I noticed as I glanced up.

"So, your soldiers managed to escape death, I see," A disdainful voice sounded. I turned. A SandWing stood where the water was still being heated, accompanied by a SkyWing and SeaWing. All three wore ridiculous black hoods covering their heads, yet upon the SandWing's chest was a golden medallion.

Upon the medallion, was a distinct symbol.

An emblazoned vulture.

Chapter 25

"You know, I've definitely heard of you before," Coral narrowed her eyes. "Those bunch of rebels in the SandWing kingdom who want to overthrow the Queen with their depraved lunacy. Something I'll never understand when there's a perfectly acceptable queen already, better than that self-proclaimed princess who knows nothing."

"Would you say blood is important in regard for royals, Your Majesty?" the "Herald" asked.

"Of course. Those with royal blood are born and trained to lead," Coral snapped.

"Then why would you choose an illegitimate Queen over one with the true blood?" the Herald smoothly continued.

"...well..." the question had stunned Mother. "Well, ahem, obviously, Blister would have been the best candidate..."

I rolled my eyes. That insane SandWing would have been a good queen, sure.

"But even so! That Onyx is illegitimate and was disapproved of by the SandWing queen herself, and of course, the other queens!" Coral protested. "She would have no training in any of the things necessary for such a role. It would not be better than handing the crown to a peasant."

The agent hissed angrily. "*Queen* Onyx is most certainly not a peasant! This is the sort of behaviour we want to stop in Pyrrhia, the pretentious behaviour of self made royals. Which is why as soon as we dethrone you, you'll be replaced with the only royal who truly understands the plight of common people, without selfish concerns of their own. She who has struggled through life like all other normal SeaWings."

"Sapphire," I concluded.

"Indeed. As you know," the agent sounded pleased. "When I found her she was living in the streets, with nothing to eat except for a few sea snails. Rumours had originated about her, as people wondered about her origin, and none dared approach her, in fear of being cursed, or worse. None reached a hand out to help her."

"And I suppose you helped her out of the pure goodness of your heart?" I growled in irritation at her falsely sympathetic tone.

"Of course not! As much as I wish, I'd never consider myself that noble a dragon. But either way, me trying to take benefit from her, involved helping her, so I see no problem with it." The agent replied smugly, in a sensible, logical tone. "Poor girl, she was so young then. She agreed to work together to restore her legacy and true right, though she wouldn't have understood that then. I introduced her to Riptide."

"So, her relationship with Riptide was all a plot to! She didn't even truly value him?" I growled. Rage bubbled up in me. Riptide lay a soothing hand on my shoulder.

"Oh yes, at first. But then she grew used to it." The agent sighed. "Understandable, of course. It is only too common to be relieved to finally be able to rely on someone. Although it seemed that the someone was unreliable in this case."

"Riptide is reliable!" I snarled. The agent rolled her eyes.

"Yes, yes. Of course, you should know that Sapphire never loved Riptide, yet she didn't exactly just use him for business. Again, mutual benefit. Quite a suitable arrangement. And it wasn't as if Sapphire hurt Riptide in any way. Why would she, when she relied, emotionally, so much on him?" The agent then sighed. "Why am I explaining this to you anyway. That's unimportant. More important is that which I've been sent here for... negotiations."

"And which negotiations are those?" Coral sniffed disdainfully.

"That which you'd expect would be given to one on the opposing

side of a war. So plain, so typical." the agent sighed. "Ah well. Give up, or we'll overthrow you. And, of course, kill the princes we hold in hostage."

"The sheer audacity–" Coral growled.

"Well, I have no more to say to you now. I'll be leaving." She looked to her escorts, who immediately bowed and obliged. The agent promptly vanished in a puff of sand that scattered itself around the soldiers, who coughed violently.

"We will get the princes back no matter what we need do!" Queen Coral declared. "If we have to cross the whole of Pyrrhia, then we will! The safety of the prince is the first priority."

"So...where shall we start to look?" I frowned.

Mother frowned as well. "Our spies told us this is where the princes were being held. But as it was all a hoax...that means we'll still have to use our original plan – to storm the enemy's camp."

"I suppose there really isn't any choice if we want to rescue the prince now," Riptide reasoned with me, seeing me begin to bubble with rage. I deflated.

"I suppose you're right."

"Up, now! Get in formation. We're swimming to the enemy's camp," Shark shouted, after Coral nodded at him.

The remaining soldiers followed me and Coral to the camp. As we were meant to be being discreet, instead of going through the currents, we were physically swimming there to avoid notice. We reached the forbidding building that I had been imprisoned in. The walls were too tall to look for patrols, but there was no need. When we arrived, a soldier swam out from a side gate. Seeing the army, he opened his mouth wide. Shark immediately slashed his neck. He gurgled and collapsed.

Remember, Squad One, lead by Squad Leader Pearlfish, will act as a distraction by entering through this side gate. While you distract the camp in the inside, Squad Two will search for the princes and destroy

supplies that you can't take. Squad Three, plant traps across the camp. The rest will break down the gates and enter the camp, attacking the rebel army. Understood? Shark flashed his stripes.

The army nodded and various flashes of *yes* short around.

Good. Then into action!

Squads broke off from us, but the main bulk of the army remained. After a brief pause, Shark nodded.

We charged at the gates.

yeah this is short af sorry but it's been a week and i haven't updated so i gotta update

also as you can probably tell i have absolutely no knowledge whatsoever on war tactics so yeah, i'm not even exactly sure what a squad is exactly but what i need is around 30 – 40 dragons so i think that's the one

anyway next update hopefully coming sooner, i'll try my best

Chapter 26

just realised since they're underwater they can't speak so i'll have to change it to

As soon as we began banging on the gates, there were cries of alarm. The gates shuddered as the battering ram smashed into it repeatedly. Hurried cries, panicked shouts. Dragon claws clattered on the ground from within the walls, but before they ever reached the gates, another clamour started and from within, clatters of the metal in armour and weapons sounded, followed by the noise of battle. Claws, swords, armour clanging. The distraction was working, leaving few soldiers at the gate. In a few minutes, the gate began to creak and the the top fell off the hinge, tilting inwards and downwards. The shouts of alarm didn't change, as if they hadn't noticed, although it may have been due to the fact the distraction Squad was still fighting furiously.

A few more minutes and another knuckle of the gate had detached itself from the hinge.

This is taking ages, I complained with flashing scales. *Isn't there a faster way?* I asked, trying to distract myself from feeling guilty about the slaughter that was happening inside. I had no idea why I even felt guilty! Before, I'd had no problem with killing dragons, sometimes even with killing innocents. But perhaps my view of the world had changed significantly, with Sapphire's story.

No, and this is with the newly developed rams which focus pressure on the hinge. In fact, not only is it the latest science, I believe the magic from one of the ancient artefacts was sent into it as well, Shark snarled. *Before it would have taken hours. Now, at best, it'll take half an hour.*

The ram continued to bang against the gate.

*Why can't the people inside just open the gates up for us?"*I frowned.

Shark sighed. *You have no patience. Those without patience will fail in*

all warfare. I scowled at him. *They are a distraction, that is why. We do not only want to hit them once and run. We want to ruin their chances of continuing to battle. Henceforth, Squad Two is ruining their supplies.*

So how is destroying the door helping? I frowned.

Because the material to make sturdy doors underwater that can withstand such pressure of the ocean is both rare, expensive and limited. Shark responded. *Without it, they'll never recover their gate and will have to abandon this fort.*

Then the silence ensued again as the ram was plunged into the gate repeatedly. Finally, after an arduous sixteen minutes, the door collapsed inwards, and the soldiers, as well as water, rushed inwards. Of course, the water wasn't a bother for the SeaWings but it still surprised them and stunned them long enough for our soldiers to make quick work of them. Finally, I stood upon a battlefield of soldiers.

"Where is Typhoon?" Coral demanded immediately to one of the soldiers that had searched the camp.

"F-forgive me, Your Majesty. Typhoon wasn't there, and nor were any of his closest advisors. I believe he somehow managed to get word of our approach.

Mother looked ready to explode with fury. I prepared to drag the soldier away from her grasp, but then another soldier ran over, followed by...the Princes. Mother's attention was completely distracted from the soldier and moved immediately to the princes.

"We have found the Princes, your Majesty." the soldier bowed.

"Excellent! We have found the princes!" She shouted to the other soldiers, who cheered. "Good job, You and your squad will be rewarded." she said to the soldier, then turned away from the princes, striding with the army following her, ignoring the princes as usual. I walked over, followed by Riptide.

"What happened?" I asked one of them. Yeah, I knew none of their

names. Give me a break, okay? I have thirty two brothers.

One of them shrugged. "We were out hunting for fish, when we were captured by Typhoon. I never trusted him. and I was right. Not only is he not to be trusted, he's insane."

"They put us into a cell," another said. "They told us they were waiting for the Queen and that if Mother didn't give up the throne for that deranged self entitled princess, then we'd be dead. Not that mother'd really care," he humphed.

The first one interrupted. "I tell you, Typhoon's insane. Didn't you hear the guard talking about him? He wants to reincarnate Whirlpool, his dead brother, by pulling his ghost over and then crowning him. What sort of depraved lunacy is that?"

I gasped. So my theory had been right. Typhoon did indeed want to revive Whirlpool and crown him. And the book's mentioning of ghosts was indeed right.

"So...how close were they to completing it?" Riptide put in.

The first one looked at him as if he were insane. "It's an impossible task. Of course they were nowhere close to doing it. The guard was preparing to leave because he thought the organisation was meaningless. I think they executed them for that. That's how unreasonable that maniac lord is!" he ranted. Riptide stepped away cautiously. I didn't bother with caution, I turned and strode away.

"So he wants to reincarnate Whirlpool," Riptide's tone sounded as worried as I felt. Was it such a big problem that it was impossible to deal with? No. But the prospect of reincarnation...

"It's fine, Tsunami," Riptide, seeing my look, reassured. "We'll deal with this like we dealt with a war involving the entire of Pyrrhia."

"I guess," I sighed. Riptide briefly pressed his nose to mine, then leapt in the water, flushing, and began swimming. I smiled and followed him, into the open ocean.

next update probably going to be in a week ._. i know, i'm slow and terrible at updating, i'll try getting it out earlier but

probably don't expect anything

Chapter 27

"Reincarnation is impossible," Coral announced to my statement. "I don't care what it says on the book, that's the simple truth."

"But if he really is trying to reincarnate Whirlpool, we have to stop him! Whirlpool was – is – a power hungry maniac who wants to overthrow you and marry Anemone to become the king!"

"Don't say that. I know you and him got off on the wrong claw, but he really isn't as terrible as you profess him to be."

"But he really is!" I growled in irritation.

"And even if he is that bad, what do you expect us to do? Stop his reincarnation?" Coral asked.

"Well, of course!" I replied in a *duh* tone, frustration clear in my voice.

"And what help would that do? We already have an entire, as you so eloquently put it, power hungry maniacal organisation after us. What is one more maniac in comparison? From what you've told me, Typhoon was the organiser and genius behind the plans. If that's so, then it really is irrelevant."

I gaped in shock at her flawless logic at how I'd worried myself over nothing."I...I suppose you're right."

"So yes, we will do nothing about Whirlpool's reincarnation. His reincarnation will not make much difference."

I smiled to myself. I'd never really doubted my mother's ability, only her moral, but I guess due to all the things that had happened recently, I just assumed that she'd fail to properly understand why I worried about certain things, especially since she made such a fuss about the princes being kidnapped without actually caring about

their safety. But it seemed her ability to make decisions was still as good as ever.

"Don't worry about the organisation overthrowing us, dear. There's no way they'll be able to defeat our army," Mother reassuringly assured.

I nodded and walked out of the room, walking towards where I'd agreed to meet Riptide, for our third date. I smiled to myself at the thought.

"Hey," Riptide grinned at me. I grinned back. "Hey there to you too."

"Right, I've planned out an hunting expedition first and then a visit to the cave once again." Riptide announced. I nodded and he leapt into the water. I followed him, diving into the water, cutting through effortlessly. I followed him through the scenic trail he'd planned to get to the hunting spot. Unlike the coral reef we'd gone through last time, this time, we swam in the current through mountainous areas. Gleaming crystals covered the walls of the surroundings, their facets of faces reflecting the sunlight from the setting sun. Phosphorus glittered at the base of the mountains, shining in different colours which were also reflected by the multifaceted jewels. Crabs scattered and octopi peeked out of caves, gliding outwards and back in. Fish darted past, colourless, yet their scales were so reflective that they were surrounded by a halo of orangey white light. We reached the hunting patch. Hundreds of fish darted, with other larger sea creatures abundant across the area, including whales, seals, walruses and sea lions, even a few sharks darting around. I swam after one of the walruses, dashing after it. However, after I caught it, I let it go; I wasn't that hungry and it would be cruel to eat it despite my lack of hunger.

A while later, we had chased and terrorised enough sea creatures, and I followed Riptide to the cave he'd shown me last time.

We surfaced up into a small underground lake. Phosphorous covered the ceilings, creating the mirage of a starry night. Somehow, there was enough to provide enough light, that plants blossomed around the edge of the water. A single tree stood at the centre, leaves yearning to the ceiling. There, Riptide had set up a

small dinner. Fish, piled up high in platters, covered the floor. Small berries and leaves decorated the edge of the plates. Riptide smiled at me, and I smiled back.

"I know quite a lot about you now, I'd say. But I'd like to know more, namely, about the time in your past." I requested.

"My childhood was quite boring, really, until my father's desert. And then I was forced to do the most boring jobs. And of course, this bit you all know about."

"Still, I'd like to know more, if you're willing to tell me.

"Only if you tell me about your childhood." He bargained.

"It wasn't very interesting in the cave. Just Kestrel, Webs and Dune pushing us around." I responded.

"What was it that you said?" Riptide raised an eyebrow

"Fair enough. Deal."

Riptide sighed. "Well, until I was two, nothing happened. There isn't anything I remember as extraordinary, except for my mother's gentle face and my dad's laugh. But otherwise, it all seemed pretty normal. Of course, so was dad's constant disappearances into the war, and I didn't even really know when he deserted, until my mother was sent away. Then, when I was three, I was immediately sent as a guard at the border of the country. I can't say it was boring, for it was much more interesting than before, but still, it was often scary, although there wasn't much to it. I once met a young EarthWing in the army, but not much happened, and in the end he just left without me needing to attack him."

Suddenly, a distraction from our conversation, a cluster of flowers bobbed up their heads and began glowing brightly. The soft pink seeds of the dandelion waved around, surrounding the green bud inside.

"Those are promitto dandelions, I checked in the library," Riptide eagerly imputed. "I planned this so that we'd just manage to catch their seeds dispersing."

The flower heads bobbed once again, then, rhythmically, in accurate tempo, the seeds drifted upwards and exploded outwards in a flurry of glowing pink dots.

"It's beautiful," I whispered. Riptide's smile grew.

"It's apparently a symbol of optimists and hope traditionally in the Earth Kingdom. I thought it was a fitting event to suit our occasion. Don't worry, Tsunami. Even if Whirlpool is reincarnated, I promised we'll be safe. "

"I love you," I smiled.

"I love you too." Riptide's snout brushed against mine, and within my stomach, a warm feeling sprouted.

a bit late, but hope you enjoyed

Chapter 28

also a bit late, sorry :(i think the story might finish soon

"Your majesty! We have found evidence of Princess Tsunami's statement."

"Oh, really? Of this ridiculous idea that reincarnation is possible?" Coral drily responded.

"Yes, your majesty. We have heard the traitor Typhoon repeat multiple times of his plans of reincarnation, but we ignored it because we thought that it wasn't possible. Of course, not because of your opinions, your majesty," the spy hastily said. "Such a great mind would never be wrong."

I snorted quietly to myself but said nothing to embarrass my mother.

"Yes, yes. So what made you believe of this plan of reincarnation?"

"We saw the equipment ourselves, your majesty. Typhoon is working with the Talons of Power to attempt such a feat. After all, those Talons have a multitudinous amount of animus. They sent said animus to help Typhoon."

Coral growled. "Those insolent, mindless miscreants! They understand nothing, yet they still profess to have good intentions, all while attempting to ruin the SeaWing kingdom and tribe! Their only real intention can be to conquer the kingdom and place Typhoon as a puppet on the throne!"

"Whirlpool, actually, once he's reincarnated," I inserted. Mother ignored me.

"What equipment have you seen?"

"Your majesty, they have a soulless dragon body ready and prepared. They have connected it to a machine that keeps it alive,

and a flock of animus dragons ready to pull the ghost in. There is another group of animus who are looking for the soul of Whirlpool. Again, I didn't believe the plot, your majesty, until I saw Whirlpool himself, transparent and white, being pulled from a bowl of murky black liquid. Before Whirlpool was tugged back in, he even spoke. I was too far to hear what he said, but his voice sounded exactly like Whirlpool's."

Mother frowned. "Hmm. It seem this plan may indeed be true. And you saw this within the castle?"

"No, your majesty. It was in a scuffed open-area platform, a short distance from the castle. However, it appears that an animus enchantment prevents anyone from entering, apart from the entrance in the castle, which has been blocked by the army"

"So they can't enter it."

"Ahem...however, your majesty, they seemed to have feared that they would be locked out, and have prepared some precautionary keys to enter the area, according to a note we managed to poke out of the area. The keys are hidden within the castle, and the other spies are currently looking for them amongst the ruins."

"I will send my army to assist." Coral nodded.

"We're not going to go?" I growled.

"Of course not. Such a trivial task. It is unfitting, unbecoming of a royal." Mother gave a horrified gasp. The only thing that would have topped it would be a clutch at her real, non imaginary pearls.

"So, we're not going to do anything to help for now?"

Mother sighed. "Yes, we will sit here while waiting for our spies and the army to give results. What else would you have us do?"

"Go with them?"

"It is a risky pursuit that we cannot do." Mother snapped.

"How is it risky?" I scowled.

Coral sighed again. "Tsunami, I will not change my mind in this. After they find the keys, we will go in to execute Typhoon, and this mess will be over."

Sounds simple. Let's see if it'll really be that simple to kill that blueberry.

i know this is really really short but it's nearly 12 and my brain isn't working ;-;

Chapter 29

"I really can't believe you haven't read any of these stories," Riptide grinned. "I used to love these when I was younger!"

"These are some of the most ridiculous scrolls I've ever seen," I laughed.

"Of course they are, they're made for children, it's not as if they're going to be completely logical and sensible works," Riptide rolled his eyes. "Their names are famous in-"

A sudden shake interrupted us, and a loud, mournful wail began to sound.

"What's going on?" I frowned, wincing as the sound mercilessly stampeded for my ears.

Turtle rushed in. "Quick! It's happening, we have to get there quickly!"

"What?" I hurriedly stood up.

"Typhoon's reincarnating Whirlpool! We have to get there quickly so we can stop him!"

"What about the barriers?" Riptide gasped beside me as we sprinted forward.

"The spies have found the emergency keys."

"Haven't they told mother?"

"Mother's trusting the army to deal with it. I feel like she thinks that it doesn't matter if Whirlpool is reincarnated."

We sped out of the Palace, and dived into the currents that carried us to the fort.

Where now? I flashed to Turtle.

Follow. he flashed back, and turned sharply. I followed onwards. Without my notice, a blue arrow of light suddenly shot at me and I collapsed heavily down, far faster than would have been possible in the ocean. Once I stood up, I found that the bodies of the army surrounded me, in an open air area.

"You're here, finally, your highness!" A dragon hurried up, and I realised it was a spy. "Quickly, the traitor's doing something dangerous with a group of animus."

"So that's why they made it open air, to make it easier for the animus," Riptide muttered.

"Yes, yes. Quickly!" Turtle urged, and we sprinted after him. We emerged out of a clearing, covered in mist.

"What's happening?"

"The spell has already started," Turtle breathed in horror. "We have to break up the formation! Now!" He sprinted forward. I grabbed his tail to avoid getting lost and felt Riptide do the same with my tail. As I got closer, shadows in the mist became more apparent. We got close enough, and I realised, a ghostly figure was emerging out of the basin...

"No!" I shouted, and sped towards the ring but was pushed back. A pulsing blue shield and blocked me.

Typhoon's face contorted when he saw me.

"It's you." he snarled. He stood in the centre of the ring of animus, with a hooded SandWing beside him and a motionless SeaWing to his other side. I glanced at the motionless SeaWing. Its eyes were pure black, without even a glint of life. dead, soulless. I shivered. Blue light poured from the animus dragons and into the basin, and the ghost had begun to push out, face in pain. I only just realised it was Whirlpool.

"Stop now!" I commanded.

"Or what?" Typhoon snarled. "Or you'll crush another dragon's dream under your foot, like all pompous royals did? Well, I'm taking none of that now. Whirlpool's coming back, and he'll be king!" He glared at me. "Animus! Kill her!" He shouted, and the sound reverberated in the deadly silence of the swirling white mist.

"Sir, the enchantment can't be interrupted." A SandWing beside him informed.

Typhoon growled. "Then I'll deal with her myself." Without warning, he rushed towards me, not even giving me time to react. He headbutted me, and I was thrown back. Riptide gave a cry of anger and alarm and rushed at Typhoon. Typhoon clawed his underbelly. I bit onto his neck and forced my teeth down as hard as I could. Typhoon shouted with pain as blood spurted out. His tail smacked into my feet and I collapsed down. Riptide clawed Typhoon's skin, even as blood dripped out of his belly. I roared. My claws found Typhoon's eyes.

"We have to take care of the body!" Turtle shouted. "Otherwise he'll come back!"

I swivelled round. The ghost had begun to force through the skin of the soulless body.

"No!" I screamed, running at the animus and shoving one aside, but it was useless. I bit and tore, but nothing interrupted him.

Turtle whispered frantically, and suddenly, the animus vanished into a purple mist. The shield immediately began repairing, but I entered and ripped the soulless dragon's body to pieces. Whirlpool's soul burst out, screaming in anger. Typhoon roared, beyond words in anger.

The soul's mouth opened, and a high pitched, impossibly loud voice screeched out.

"How dare you! How dare you! You've destroyed my body!"

"Good," I snarled back.

Whirlpool shook his head angrily, more beast than dragon.

"I *must* have a body!"

"And I must destroy you," I snarled, running a claw into his neck. Nothing happened, as expected.

"You cannot destroy, me, I am untouchable by all things corporeal," Whirlpool sneered. "If I cannot join my rightful body, then the only body I can enter...is yours."

"Tsunami!" Riptide shouted, and sped for me, but Whirlpool had already begun to force his way in. I screamed, without anyway to fend him off. Something flashed in front of my eyes, a vision, a memory, a distant dream.

"Why would you want to be king? You'd have to be responsible for all those people," Typhoon cocked his head. "I can't understand it."

I smiled. "Exactly! Imagine if I could help the SeaWings grow and improve as a tribe. We'd be the best tribe in Pyrrhia!"

Typhoon shrugged, but smiled as well. "Better you than me, I suppose, your majesty." His smile turns teasing.

"Hey! Quit it!" Typhoon began to chuckle and I followed.

"Either way," Typhoon's expression turned serious. "Whether or not you become king, you'll always have my support. I love you, Whirlpool."

"I love you too, Typhoon."

The scene faded, and another emerged.

"Enough about me," the SeaWing in front of me gave a twinkling laugh. Sapphire, she was called. Named after the princess. "How about you? What do your parents do?"

"They're no one important," I quickly lied. Sapphire had discreetly shown her distaste for the aristocracy. "They're, uh, armour smiths."

"Ah, where do they live?"

"Uh, Prawn Road."

"Prawn Road?" Sapphire frowned. "I don't believe I've heard of that street before."

Of course, she hadn't. I 'd made it up! I gritted my teeth getting ready for the stinging accusation, but it never came.

"Oh well, probably just my limited knowledge in geography. Should have payed attention in school." Sapphire smiled, and I couldn't help but smile with her.

"Oh dear, what's the time? Is it already sunset? I've got to go," Sapphire hastily got up. "I'll see you tomorrow, same place?"

"Yes," I called after her, but she didn't hear it, for she was already entirely submerged. The sun set below the horizon, and the moon drifted up, but I still didn't move, lost in thought...

Chapter 30

"So you're the infamous son of Lord Stonefish." Sapphire's tone wasn't condemning, yet the stone cold glint in here eyes glared out piercingly.

"I know, I shouldn't have lied to you, but hear me out." I pleaded. "I, I was selfish, I wanted to get to know you, I didn't mean to harm you, or upset you in any way, please..."

"I'll have no more contact with you." Sapphire responded coldly. "You wanted to get to know me, yet you've hidden that of yourself as well, with lies and fabrications. Well, guess what, there are things a princess can hide too!" She snapped, glaring at me. "Now, if you'll excuse me, I'll be returning to begin to plan my wedding. With my finance*!" She snarled, and I gaped. "Didn't expect it to proceed that fast? You expected me to break up with him eventually, and then for you to have a chance to court me? Guess what, the world doesn't revolved around you, and don't expected to get invited to my wedding either!" Sapphire turned sharply and stomped away. Yet when I recalled on her words, I realised she had mentioned something about a Princess hiding stuff. And coincidentally, the princess happened to me missing, though it had been hidden to avoid panic, as the princess was beloved by the people. Yet Sapphire had mentioned it too...*

Of course, it could be nothing. In reality, there was nothing in that statement that could indicate anything, but yet the uncomfortable feeling remained, writhing in my stomach...

Yet aside from pain, heartbreak and upset, there was also a darkness lurking in my heart, one which shocked me once I noticed it. The jealousy and wrath that hissed and growled within me shocked me, yet uncontrolled, surged forth, and i begun to head back to my house. My parents had been getting suspicious about why I spent so much time in the lower realm anyway. Now, they would understand.

The scene flashed again.

"You're saying you chanced upon meeting the princess, courting with peasants, while wandering uselessly around?"

"Oh, of course, i made some investigations, but I have my suspicions it might be her." I smirked, yet the smirk was painful on my face..

My father sighed. "Very well, I'll check your ridiculous claims and see if they're indeed true." He strode out of the room, and satisfaction and a sense of righteousness filled me. Yet another part of me filled with horror, with shame, shock at my cruelty and guilt. Sapphire was living just fine until I tore her from it. The last hope for me was to pray she wasn't the princess after all.

"You were right! She was the princess!" Typhoon exclaimed, rushing in. "You really did it! You found the princess!"

"How...how did they find out?" I bit my lip. Typhoon stared at me as if I'd gone mad.

"They looked at her wings, of course. How else would they find a true royal?"

I suddenly and finally realised why I was so convinced Sapphire was the princess; I'd once glimpsed the undersides of her wings, when she wasn't careful. We had both been slightly drunk, and I'd thought nothing of it at the time, and afterward had pretty much forgotten about it. But I had definitely seen it; now, it was so clear in my memory. How could I have missed it?

I turned to him. His excited expression turned concerned. "What's wrong? Are you okay?"

"I..." I pushed past him and left my bedroom. "I need some time alone."

"Oh...okay, of course." Typhoon obliged, without arguments and I internally sighed with relief. I strode out of the house and swam into the water. Regret was even more bitter now, that I knew Sapphire would be captured and contained, simply because she wanted a taste of normal life...

"I will, of course, give the princess a serious talking to," The queen assured my father.

"A talking to? How will that be enough?" My father growled. "At least, a public denunciation would be necessary."

"You want me to denounce my own daughter and heir?" The queen growled. "For a minor discretion?"

"It is not just a minor discretion. Did you not hear of her...flirtations with a lowly labourer? That alone has besmirched her reputation. Many nobles would disapprove."

"And by many nobles you mean you?" The queen growled. "Should I remind you who is truly the queen? Should I remind you who truly holds the power?"

"Of course, your majesty. I agree with you, of course, but many others will likely disrespect the princess for this, perhaps feel less loyal."

"Then they'll have me to answer to." The queen snarled. My father ignored her.

"And possibly even feel less loyal to you, as they would feel that you haven't taken enough and appropriate action."

"Lies. Lies! How dare you stand there and ridicule me in my own court! Out!" The queen full out roared. My father smiled grimly. "Merely a warning, your majesty. In fact, the people, even, may feel upset, and without the support of the people..."

"Out!"

Guards rushed forward and dragged away my father away from the queen, out of the Summer Palace.

"They're executing her." Typhoon began the conversation quietly, calmly, as if scared of my reaction. Yet I had nothing to say to it. It was all my fault, and now it was too late to step back.

"Do you not have anything to say to that?"

"What is there to say?" I held out my talons helplessly. "I don't want her to be executed, but who'll listen? "

Silence.

"I loved her!" I shouted. "She was my dream, the only thing that made life bearable, palatable. I once thought life was interest worthy. I thought to help people was good. But then...everything changed...Sapphire helped so many people. She was my idol. Now, she's to be executed. She was never rewarded. And I once thought father was benevolent, but he still pushed the queen to kill *the princess! What for, so he can control Princess Coral? So he can manipulate her while she's still young and influence her to follow everything he says? Why?"*

Another moment of silence.

"He loves you." Typhoon quietly replied. "That's why. He thought you hated her, that you thought she abandoned you."

"I did too!" I growled. "I once blamed her, saying she was in the wrong and that she had omitted so much from me, underplaying her relationship. But why would she do that? I was the one living in the illusion all along. I only made up blames for my conscience. I was the monster who reported her! I hid everything about me from her, not using evasion but using lies and deceit and elaborate plots and backup to make my lies seem true!"

"But at least no one was harmed," Typhoon reasoned.

"If I have the potential to do that in me, I have the potential to massacre cities." I shook my head. "There's no point. Benevolence isn't rewarded but neither is cruelty. Even controlling everything isn't enough. The aristocrats are all dumb and the queen is influenced by everything around her. But complete control's the only thing to balance life. If I was king..."

Typhoon said nothing for a moment, and I knew he'd be feeling horrified at me. But nevertheless, he spoke. "I'll always support you, Whirlpool, even if I don't agree with you. If you need anything...I'll be at your side."

I breathed deeply. "Thank you."

"No problem. That's what brothers are for."

My mind vision began blurring as the flashbacks ended, and real life returned. I struggled out of Whirlpool's memories. With a great flash of light, Whirlpool's spirit was thrown out, and then, dissolved into nothing.

Chapter 31

I wake up with a start, my heart pounding in my chest. *Where am I? What happened?* There was something about reincarnation...Lord Stonefish...Princess Sapphire, and the one after that...a man's scream. "Why did they execute her? She was my love!" Typhoon...Whirlpool...Whirlpool! The soul! His soul in me...the agony... It all comes rushing back to me in a jumbled mess.

But I'm fine. At least I'm alive and Whirlpool isn't back. No slimy oily relatives of rotten blueberries to disturb me or the peace of the kingdom, hooray!

"Tsunami, you're awake," a voice startled me out of my thoughts. I turned to see Turtle and a SeaWing healer, concerned looks on their faces. "Thank goodness. Do you feel any pain?"

I considered it for a moment. "No?"

"You're physically fine, but you'll need to rest for a few days, I'm afraid." Turtle looks terrified, as if I'm going to protest. And I would have, if I were feeling any less drained.

I nod, still trying to process everything that happened. "What about Typhoon?" I ask.

"He's been apprehended and is now safely in prison," Prince Turtle tells me. "Don't worry, Tsunami. Everything is going to be alright."

I nod again, still processing. "The egg," I say, remembering. "What happened to it?"

"It's safe, along with the other eggs," Prince Turtle reassures me. "Don't worry."

I look around at my surroundings. The hospital room is white and sterile, with a royal SeaWing banner hanging on the wall in splashes of green and blue. I look out the window and see the blue

of the ocean, the sun shining brightly to illuminate a patch of coral just outside the window. A pink dolphin floats away in a relaxed manner, fins just barely moving and eyes closed contently. The scene radiates tranquility, serenity, peacefulness.

Turtle glances at the healer. "Well, we have to leave now. There are soldiers to treat and mother wants me for some reason."

"Okay," I say. They leave out, only to be bumped into by Riptide, who charges in and knocks them over noisily. A nurse hurries over full of reprimands but Riptide ignores her.

"Tsunami! Oh, thank the moons you're alright! I was so worried about you!"

I roll my eyes. "Yeah, yeah, I'm fine. You don't have to go on and on about it."

Riptide frowned at me angrily. "You gave me a heart attack there! Don't ever do that again!"

I raise an eyebrow. "Do what, get attacked by the maniacal soul of a desperate power hungry dragon whose body I just destroyed to prevent his brother and a group of animus from the SandWing kingdom to put into a synthetical body? Of course, I'll be sure to rearrange my schedule then, just to make sure it doesn't happen next Wednesday too."

Riptide looks sheepish, and I chuckle inwardly at the familiar expression. "I'm alright, like I said. It's all fine. And the eggs are fine too, so no need to worry about that."

"Oh, right! The eggs!" Surprise briefly crosses Riptide's face as the phrase slips out. He hastily covers it to assume a funeral expression, but of course he messes it up.

"Yeah, the eggs. You didn't already forget about it, did you?"

Riptide returns to his sheepish expression. So much about being a good actor. "Thank god you're not in charge of them. Turtle said they're safe, so no need to worry about them."

Riptide looks relieved again. "That's good. I was so worried about you. And the eggs, of course. Definitely."

"Well, you don't have to worry anymore. I'm here, and the eggs are safe. No need to go about it anymore." I smirk. "What were you saying before all of this? Something about not getting to spend enough time with each other? Well, here's your chance. Time to plan another date."

Riptide sighed. "I'm pretty much out of ideas by now...maybe you should plan the date this time? You are the princess after all."

I scowl at him. "Exactly! I'm the princess and I deserve to be pampered. You're meant to be the one with romantic declarations and lavish dates. And the food."

Riptide's face instantly hardened to become serious. "Tsunami, you know how much you matter to me. I know we've had our ups and downs, and events disrupting our relationship and murder plots to prevent us from progressing -- but I want to spend the rest of my life with you. Even if you'd like my nose to be a herring more or if you think my wings sound like sharks snoring -- that could be a good thing I guess -- I'll still be supportive and protective of you. You're everything to me Tsunami. I...I love you."

A lump forms in my throat and for a few seconds, I say nothing. I swallow it down as hard as I can. *Three moons, what's wrong with me?!* Finally I managed out: "Riptide..."

He swallows hard. "It's okay if you don't feel the same away about me, but--"

"Shut up, squid brain! You know how I feel about you. You know that I love you!" I growl, and Riptide's face instantly fills with emotion.

"You do?" He grins.

"Now you're going to try to get me to keep saying that like a lovesick..." I sigh. "Yeah, I guess you're not that bad. I love you, Riptide."

Riptide grins harder.

"I'd love you more if you actually planned dates for me!"

Riptide's grin doesn't vanish. "I'd do anything for you, Tsunami. Whatever you like."

He sits by my bed and holds onto my talons. We both look out the window at the coral gently swaying. Somehow it seem to glow with a vibrant, iridescent light as the sun shines down on it. The sunshine seems like a spotlight, a godray, reinforcing the rainbow. Schools of brightly colored fish dance in and out of the coral, while crabs and shrimp scurry along the branches. The silence gives way to the sound of chirping, chattering, and clicking as the animals go about their daily lives. A few moments later, majestic sea turtles glide through the water and into view with grace, their shells shimmering in the sunlight. Schools of dolphins and whales can often be spotted frolicking and hunting amongst the coral, their powerful bodies moving effortlessly through the water.

Typhoon, Whirlpool, Sapphire, they were all gone and safely apprehended. Perhaps they didn't deserve it, with their motives and backstories. But that was a worry for another day; at the present moment, there were only me and Riptide in calm companiable silence, a pleasure to my jumbled mind, like a pleasant cool breeze after a storm, settling down...finally, into peace.

It was over...we could finally relax.

hello! @DragongDoesMSM and @Qibli_Gatorade (sort of?) said they'd like me to continue...so here I am, after... a year? 2 years? idk... I checked my notes, and it turns out, I was nearly already done! so ig it was a pity i stopped when i was nearly done...or maybe i had some new ideas and forgot about them? anyway, you can check if it flows fluidly or not, and i'm always open to suggestions! there are 2~3 chapters after this, if i count the epilogue i plan to write.

But there are a bunch of plotholes i didn't fill yet either and

stuff i'd still like to explore.

such as, how did tsunami get pregnant (since i don't think i mentioned this prior, maybe very slightly touched on it in sapphire's monologues but otherwise no)? and no, they did not...do it...they literally just got into a relationship! i mean okay they've technically been making an eyes at each other for ages but i think both of them aren't the type to just go for it straight away -- so don't say "oh right tsunami became pregnant because that's what happens when a girl dragon loves a boy dragon very much" etc. I did have plans for this long ago but never got around to writing it.

Also, I would like to give both sapphire and typhoon better redemption arcs than just a vague explanation of motives.

so...BOOK 2? COMING WHEN?

Chapter 32

A few months later...

I walk into the new, specially constructed Royal Hatchery specially for my eggs, my heart pounding with excitement and nerves. Riptide walks beside me, grinning widely.

It's been a few months after the incident with Typhoon. For most of it, I'd spent my time in the JMA dealing with obnoxious dragonets. But at least it was better than being forced by my own mother to plan a wedding with a psychopathic blueberry who believed in revival.

Ah yes, Mother. She'd changed so much since I told her about Riptide. She even agreed to let Auklet off the harness! She'd almost completely become the ideal Mother of dreams and stories, from the scroll of the *Missing Princess*, gracious and forgiving and gentle. Almost. Well, perhaps not so gentle.

A gentle and kind mother; that was what I wanted to be. Like...like Sapphire's mother. But then again...I had a school to run. How long would I truly be able to spend with my child? Would she live in JMA or with Riptide? Or with my Mother?

"Are you ready for this?" Riptide asks, glancing over at me with a worried expression and interrupting my thoughts. I forced an eye roll that I really wasn't feeling; give me a break, I'd never looked after a dragonet before! And if the brats at JMA were any indication...well, not all of them were that bad. Only a few certain dragonets *cough* Peril and Winter especially *cough* were...quite a bother,

"Of course I'm ready," I say, trying to sound confident. "I'm not nervous! I'm not afraid of anything."

"Right," Riptide says, unconvinced. "I'm sure the eggs won't mind that you're a little bit nervous."

I glare at him. "I'm not nervous," I snap. "I'm excited. There's a difference."

Riptide just chuckles and shakes his head. "Sure, sure," he says, theatrically winking at me. "I believe you."

I smacked him with my tail. "Shut up, squid brain."

Riptide winks at me again in his obnoxious manner.

"Ugh! I hate you." I growled. No, not really. Riptide winks at me again and I give up.

We reach the entrance to the hatchery, and I push open the door, stepping inside. The hatchery is a large, circular room. A seaweed nest lay in the middle, surrounded by Hydrothermal vents.

We make our way to our own nest, and I carefully lower myself onto the sand, peering down at the five eggs that lay nestled within. I reach out a claw and gently touch the largest one, feeling the warm, smooth shell beneath my talons.

"I can't believe they're almost ready to hatch," I say, my voice filled with awe. "It seems like just yesterday that we were worrying about whether or not they would even..."

"I know," Riptide says, settling down next to me. "It's amazing how fast they grow. I can't wait to see what they look like."

We pause in silence for a moment, watching the silent pulsing of the eggs.

"Which one are you hoping for?" Riptide breaks the silence. "Boy or girl, I mean.

"I don't know...I think both are fine for me." I swallow as one of the eggs tremble.

"I'd like a girl. A little girl with your dark, royal blue scales and my horns."

"I feel upset for any girl with your uncouth horns." I smirked,

awaiting the indignant outburst. 3...2...1...

"Hey! My horns are perfectly fine!" Riptide complains. I quietly grin to myself and Riptide sighs.

"I take it back, I don't care what they look like, as long as they aren't so...insulting like you. One of you is already as much as I can handle, but two of you? Three moons, I'm getting nightmares from thinking about it," he groans.

My face turns serious again. "I don't care what they look like or what their personalities are like," I say softly. "As long as they're healthy and happy, that's all that matters to me."

Riptide looks at me and smiles softly. "I know. I agree."

We sit for a few more moments in companiable silence, watching the eggs.

Just then, one of the eggs begins to tremble and crack, and Riptide and I watch in amazement as a tiny dragonet emerges from the shell, its wings still damp and sticky with egg goop.

"It's a girl!" I exclaim, my eyes shining with joy. I reach out and carefully scoop up the dragonet, cradling it in my arms. The dragonet looks up at me with curious, golden eyes, and I feel my heart swell with love.

"She's beautiful," Riptide says, gazing at the dragonet in awe. "What should we name her?"

I think about it for a moment, and then make my decision.

"Sapphire."

Riptide is shocked. His mouth immediately forms a perfect O and stays there for a straight three seconds before he recovers.

"But...but, Tsunami!"

"I know, I'll be naming her after a murderer and your ex. But still."

"Tsunami, the first Sapphire had her claws removed and went insane. The second Sapphire, as you've told me, was executed in Whirlpool's father's plot. The third Sapphire...well, I don't even need to mention her. Naming our daughter Sapphire...that's just bad luck."

I thought for a moment. "No. Definitely Sapphire."

"Why?"

I thought again. "I don't know. It just seems right. But either way..."

The first Sapphire was caught unaware in an animus attack; something beyond her control; a pitiful story.

The second Sapphire was gentle and idyllic, a perfect mother. She was sweet and kind, and also had a tragic end.

The third Sapphire lost due to what was beyond her control, and used all her power and determination to achieve her goals. Perhaps misguided, but her character was strong.

A sapphire; representative of royalty and holiness, of wisdom and virtue, of greatness.
Of good fortune.

"It won't be like that for her." I promised. "I'll make sure of it. It's a fitting homage to them anyway. It's what they'd deserve."

Riptide sighs. "Okay, fine. I'm sure you have your reasons in being adamant on this name. Although I'm not sure why, I don't believe in superstition that much anyway so... But whenever she's with you, keep her safe, okay? Make sure nothing ever harms our daughter."

I look down at the dragonet in my arms, with beautiful royal blue scales and sapphire eyes. She laughs and gurgles with joy, kicking her legs.

"I will."

I will protect. This time, it was my own daughter.

My daughter; the one who'd break the cycle of the tragedy of the prior Sapphires because I'd make sure of it; the fourth Sapphire.

idk how long it takes for a dragon egg to hatch so uh...correct me if i'm wrong ig

So...whadya think of me naming their daughters Sapphire? Ik kinda sounds like a recepie for disaster but it kinda seemed fitting to me so i just went with it.

just the epilogue after this! and then maybe...book 2?

anyway bai, hope you enjoyed :)